

June 5–11. John 14–17: “Continue Ye in My Love”

Instructions to His Disciples

Matthew, Mark, and Luke all conclude the event of the Last Supper by describing Judas’ betrayal of Jesus
But John continues telling of this event by discussing how Jesus gave some final instructions to His apostles

Christ commands his followers to love one another

John 13:33-35

33 Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you.

34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Jeffrey R. Holland

“As He prepared to leave His still-innocent and somewhat-confused little band of followers, He did not list a dozen administrative steps they had to take or hand them a fistful of reports to be filled out in triplicate. No, He summarized their task in one fundamental commandment: ‘Love one another; as I have loved you.... By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.’” (CR, April 2018)

If all of Jesus’ disciples followed His example of love, what impact do you think it would have on the world accepting restoration of the gospel?

Joseph B. Wirthlin

“One underlying principle runs throughout the Savior’s life, mission, and teachings: We are to love one another....

“Imagine for a moment the result if everyone were to love one another as Jesus loves his disciples. We would have no bickering, quarreling, strife, or contention in our homes. We would not offend or insult one another either verbally or in any other way. We would not have unnecessary litigation over small matters. War would be impossible, especially war waged in the name of religion.” (CR, Oct. 1993)

Christ compares good service to being fruit of the vine:

Heavenly Father is the husbandman

Christ is the vine

Christ's followers are the branches

The good works of his followers is the fruit

John 15:1-8

1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

What must a branch (followers of Christ) do to be able to bear fruit?

(As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me)

Heber C. Kimball

“We never can enjoy the lifegiving influences of the Spirit of God except we live and practice our religion, always abiding in the vine, for as the branch cannot bring forth or produce except it remain connected with the tree, so we cannot increase in light and knowledge unless we keep alive in Christ.” (JD, 9:335)

How do we abide in Christ?

Robert L. Millet

“To abide in Christ is to trust in him, rely on him, be patient with him and his plan for us, yield ourselves to his mercies, surrender to him, and thereby draw upon his life and his strength....

“When that Spirit dwells in us, we begin to bear the fruit of the Spirit.... ‘But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, [and] temperance’ (Galatians 5:19, 22-25).” (Alive in Christ: The Miracle of Spiritual Rebirth, pg. 59)

Why do you think it is that bearing fruit and being purged go hand in hand?

(every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit)

Harold B. Lee

"Rarely, if ever, is there a truly great soul except he has been tried and tested through tears, and adversity—seemingly pruned by the hand of a

master gardener. By applying the knife and the pruning hook the branch is shaped and fashioned to God's omnipotent design, in order that its full fruitage may be realized.” (The Teachings of Harold B. Lee, pg. 209)

What happens to the branch that does not bear good fruit?

(Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away)

Bernard P. Brockbank

“The nonproducing branches on the vine, some lost in the darkness and sin of the world, some weak and sick from the blight of evil, some branches fluttering in the winds of worldly pleasure... will be pruned from the vine. They will be cut away from their source of divine nourishment.” (CR, Oct. 1973)

Christ again equates service and love with being filled with joy and happiness

John 15:9-12

9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

What can Jesus' disciples do that He promises will bring them a fullness of joy?

(If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love... your joy might be full)

Ronald T. Halverson

"Because of His great love for us, a divine love, He wants us to experience the kind of joy that He, Himself, experiences.... He will bless us with a genuine peace—mentally, emotionally, physically, spiritually, economically—'not [a peace] as the world giveth, (John 14:27), but a 'peace... which passeth all understanding' (Philip. 4:7).

"As one complies with the will of our Father in Heaven, there will come spiritual, intellectual, and emotional growth and a reassurance through the Holy Spirit of truth. That reassurance and joy can grow to a perfect knowledge.” (CR, April 2015)

Jesus also makes it clear that those who chose a life centered in Him will not be popular with the world

John 15:18-21

18 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.

19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

21 But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.

Why does following Jesus put His disciples at odds with the world?

(because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you

George Q. Cannon

“If we would be like the rest of the world, we would have no opposition from the world.....

“If we were like the world, the world would love us; but because God has chosen us out of the world, therefore the world hates us; and we shall be hated as long as we preserve these virtues and contend for them.” (Gospel Truth: Discourses and Writings of President George Q. Cannon, selected, arranged, and edited by Jerreld L. Newquist, pg. 307)

Thomas S. Monson

“We must be vigilant in a world which has moved so far from that which is spiritual. It is essential that we reject anything that does not conform to our standards, refusing in the process to surrender that which we desire most: eternal life in the kingdom of God.” (CR, Oct. 2011)

Jesus Promises Another Comforter

Jesus had been the apostles companion for 3 years. Now He was about to leave them

John 14:15-17,26

15 ¶ If ye love me, keep my commandments.

16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Jesus promises them 'another Comforter'. Who is he referring to?

(the Spirit of truth.... which is the Holy Ghost)

Bruce R. McConkie

“Now, when Christ was here in his ministry, he told his Apostles that when he went away, he would send them another Comforter that is a Comforter other than he, himself, for he was a comfort unto them....

“But the thing that we are concerned with here in mortality, is to have the Holy Ghost reveal to us the things of God, the knowledge that God is our Father, that Jesus Christ is his Son, literally born of him in the flesh, and that the kingdom of God has been set up on earth again for the last time.”
(CR, April 1953)

Jesus teaches about the mission of the Holy Ghost

John 16:7-14

7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

9 Of sin, because they believe not on me;

10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

What blessings are promised to those who receive the companionship of the Holy Ghost?

(Comforter

he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance

when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth

he will shew you things to come

He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you)

Timothy J. Dyches

“Thereafter, when your desires and actions are centered on the covenant path, the Holy Ghost, as a light within you, will reveal and testify of truth, warn of danger, comfort and cleanse, and provide peace to your soul.

“Because ‘light cleaveth unto light,’ the constant companionship of the Holy Ghost will lead you to make choices that will tend to keep you in the light; conversely, choices made without the Holy Ghost’s influence will tend to

lead you into shadows and darkness.” (CR, April 2021)

How do you think the Holy Ghost glorifies Jesus?

Marion G. Romney

“The Holy Ghost is the great witness of, the messenger for, and testifier of the Father and the Son. The Savior [spoke] of Him as the ‘Spirit of truth.’

“By the witness and power of the Holy Ghost we receive personal testimonies of the truths of the gospel, including knowledge of God the Father and His beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer.” (CR, April 1977)

The Second Comforter

Jesus not only promised the apostles he will send them another comforter, the Holy Ghost, but that He will also manifest himself to them

John 14:18-23

18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

19 Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.

20 At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

22 Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?

23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

What do you think Jesus meant when He said He would manifest Himself and make His abode with those who love Him?

Joseph Smith

"After a person has faith in Christ, repents of his sins, and is baptized for the remission of his sins and receives the Holy Ghost... then let him continue to humble himself before God, hungering and thirsting after righteousness, and living by every word of God, and the Lord will soon say unto him, Son, thou shalt be exalted. When the Lord has thoroughly proved him, and finds that the man is determined to serve Him at all hazards, then the man will find his calling and his election made sure, then it will be his privilege to receive the other Comforter, which the Lord hath promised the Saints, as is recorded in the testimony of St. John, in the 14th chapter....

"Now what is this other Comforter? It is no more nor less than the Lord Jesus Christ Himself; ...when any man obtains this last Comforter, he will

have the personage of Jesus Christ to attend him, or appear unto him from time to time... and the Lord will teach him face to face." (TPJS, pg. 150-1)

Spencer W. Kimball

“Of all treasures of knowledge, the most vital is the knowledge of God: his existence, powers, love, and promises.

“The Christ said: ‘He... that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself unto him.’

“He further said: ‘If a man love me... we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.’

“And the Prophet Joseph Smith explained: ‘And this means that the coming of the Father and the Son to a person is a reality—a personal appearance—and not merely dwelling in his heart’ (D&C 130:3).” (CR, Oct. 1968)

Ye Are My Friends

We usually think of friends as a co-relationship. Think differently for this discussion. We can definitely think of Jesus as our friend. Who has done more for us and who can we count on more than Him?

But does Jesus think of us as His friend?

John 15:14-17

14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

17 These things I command you, that ye love one another.

Why had the apostles received the status of being Jesus’ friend?

(Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you
the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth
friends; for all things... I have made known unto you)

How do we become Jesus’ friend?

(Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you)

Stephen L Richards

“The Lord used the term friends most impressively...

“The essence of the friendship here set forth lies in belief and acceptance of the divinity of the Master. It is inconceivable that he should extend the friendship he so beautifully described to any others than those who were believers. We know of his compassion, his mercy, and concern for all our Father's children, but it should never be forgotten that he set forth in unequivocal language the eligibility of those admitted to the circle of his friendship.” (CR, April 1955)

Neal A. Maxwell

“He said to His disciples in the meridian of time that they were no longer servants, but friends: ‘Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.’

“... [This] describes the condition necessary for us to achieve in order to prove our friendship for Him: we must keep His commandments and strive to become like Him. His truest friends are those who give such evidence of being ‘valiant in the testimony of Jesus’ and who thereby overcome themselves and the world (DC 79:79; 121:29).

“... His is a beckoning friendship, a designation that is actually an invitation, for He declared: ‘I will call you friends, for ye are my friends, and ye shall have an inheritance with me’ (DC 93:45).” (Even As I Am, pg. 41)

What will be the natural byproduct of those who become His friends?

(I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain)

It seems to me that being worth to be considered by Jesus to be His friend is along the same lines as receiving the Second Comforter: You are worthy and able to enjoy a familiar relationship with Him.

Intercessory Prayer

Jesus prays for His apostles at the beginning of their ministry, and for those who believe their word.

David O. McKay referred to it as, "one of the most glorious prayers—I suppose the greatest prayer—ever uttered in this world". (CR, Oct. 1967)

Jesus has glorified the Father and is our mediator

John 17:1-5

1 These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:

2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as

many as thou hast given him.

3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

What insight do we receive about the relationship and work of Jesus and the Father?

N. Eldon Tanner

“In these words we find some of the greatest truths that have ever been uttered for the benefit and blessing of mankind. We learn that Jesus lived with his Father before the world was created; that he had been given a special work to do and was sent by his Father to the earth to perform that work; that there had been revealed to him the events which would transpire concerning his crucifixion and death and resurrection;... and it has been made abundantly clear that the Father and the Son, though separate beings, are one in purpose as he prayed his apostles might be.” (CR, April 1978)

How does Jesus define eternal life?

(this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent)

Dallin H. Oaks

“In contrast to the belief that God is an incomprehensible and unknowable mystery is the truth that the nature of God and our relationship to Him is knowable and is the key to everything else in our doctrine....

“The effort to know God and His work began before mortality and will not be concluded here. The Prophet Joseph Smith taught, ‘It will be a great while after you have passed through the veil before you will have learned ... all the principles of exaltation’ (Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith, pg. 268). We build on the knowledge we acquired in the premortal spirit world.” (CR, April 2017)

To whom will Christ give eternal life?

(to as many as thou hast given him)

3 Nephi 15:24

... ye are my sheep, and ye are numbered among those whom the Father hath given me.

D&C 50:41

Fear not, little children, for you are mine, and I have overcome the world, and you are of them that my Father hath given me

Jesus prays for those whom the Father has given Him

John 17:9,14-19

9 I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.

14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

Jesus sends His disciples into the world even as His Father sent Him into the world

Russell M. Nelson

“God wants us to work together and help each other.... That is why He asks us to live in the world but not be of the world.... We extend our reach and our influence for good by working together. God’s plan of happiness would be frustrated if His children remained isolated one from another.” (CR, April 2021)

Rather than being taken out of the world, how does Jesus ask the Father to bless His disciples?

(but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil)

James E. Faust

"The Savior gives us a profound key by which we can cope with and even surmount the debilitating forces of the world. Said the Savior, 'I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.' This grand key then is that, regardless of the saturation of wickedness around us, we must stay free from the evil of the world. The Savior's prayer both commands us to avoid evil and proffers divine help to do so. Through this effort we become one with our Lord." (CR, Oct. 1996)

According to this passage, how does one become sanctified?

(Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth)

Vaughn J. Featherstone

"Sanctification means to be made pure and spotless and holy. Truth can sanctify us if we abide in it. Truth purges falsehoods, misconceptions, errors, lies, evil, lust, and other perverse behaviors from our lives. Truth is greater than the sword. Jesus' prayer to His Father included the admission that 'thy word is truth.' All truth emanates from God. Truth is eternal and absolute, and it sanctifies those who receive it." (The Incomparable Christ: Our Master and Model, pg. 28)

Charles W. Penrose

Christ taught his disciples... that when he went away the Comforter should come to reveal unto them the things of the Father and the Son, and to guide them unto all truth; for it is only by receiving truth and living it that people can be saved and exalted. 'Sanctify them through thy truth,' prayed the Savior, 'thy word is truth.' The Holy Ghost, the Comforter, was to come, therefore, to make plain the truth, and to reveal things past, present, and to come." (JD, 21:80)

As we've discussed, what can we count on to guide us to truth?

John 16:13

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth

Now Jesus prays for those who come to Him thru the testimonies of the apostles.

John 17:20-26

20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

25 O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me.

26 And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

How can we be one with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost?

Marion G. Romney

"The way to unity is for us to learn the will of the Lord and then to do it. Until this basic principle is understood and observed, there will be no unity and peace on the earth. The power of the Church for good in the world depends upon the extent to which we, the members thereof, observe this principle.

"The major reason for the world's troubles today is that men are not seeking to know the will of the Lord and then to do it. Rather do they seek to solve their problems in their own wisdom and in their own way." (CR, April 1983)