

# **Principles and Applications**

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**A Paper**  
**Submitted to Dr. Fred Chay**  
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**In Partial Fulfillment**  
**of the Requirements for**  
**Biblical Interpretation**

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**by**  
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**PASSAGE:** John 14:15-24,

15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. 16 "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 "After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also.

20 "In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."

22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?"

23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. 24 "He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me.

**THEOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES:**

- 1) Constant realization of my love for Jesus will help me keep His commandments. **Do I love Jesus?** Have I spent time with Him and get excited about Him like I do about others I love? As I find myself concerned about keeping His commandments, I should be more concerned about loving Him-- this will help me keep His commandments. *If [I] love [Him], [I] **WILL** keep [His] commandments.* (John 14:15, hearers perspective)
- 2) Keep Jesus' commandments: *This is my commandment: that you Love one another.* **Make an effort to Love**, as Jesus Loved and exemplified by washing the feet of His disciples, just before these statements in John.
- 3) Jesus is with/in me all the time. **Acknowledge** Him as I would a friend I love that is with me, and since Jesus is with me all the time, this means **constantly**.
- 4) Jesus and the Father love me and Jesus **manifests** Himself to me. Obedience to Christ, and Love between us, will result in Jesus **manifesting** Himself to me. Jesus says He will be known by me. As I

read His Word, know that He WILL manifest Himself to me.

### **APPLICATIONS:**

Lately, I've been having trouble getting things done. It seems that I have way too much to do, and I find myself stressing about it all. When I go to start a task, I find myself constantly not able to concentrate-- like I'm neglecting some other task. After discussing this with a friend last week, I realized the task I was avoiding was not one task on my long list. It wasn't even on my list. It wasn't even an 'it', it was a 'Who'. I'd been so busy trying to 'get things done' that I had been neglecting spending time with my God. And the coolest part was realizing that all the uneasiness inside, the inability to concentrate, was God saying, "Hey, I'm more important than this stuff. I miss you. I want you to go through this exciting time **with Me**. I Love you." Over the past week I've been committing tasks to Him before starting them. I've enjoyed talking with Him about and throughout the 'stuff I need to get done'. It's made me slightly more productive, but has given me an abundance more peace and joy with my God.

While reading God's Word, when I come across something that seems familiar and vague, instead of passing over it, I trust that God loves me and wants to reveal Himself to me. I've prayed and expectantly asked God about these unclear passages and really believe He wants to give me a better understanding of Him and His Word.

This past week, a friend of mine was sick. She has been overwhelmed with school, work, and life, and this might have been God's way of settling her down to think about things for a bit. But I saw it as a perfect opportunity to practice my theological principles from John 14. I specifically set aside time to drive by Sweet Tomatoes with the intent to pick up The World's Best Chicken Noodle Soup and bring it by her apartment. I had just taken my parents out to lunch for my mom's birthday, and had stopped at the flower shop to get her a rose and

birthday card. I decided to pick up an extra one for my sick friend. A rose was a little much, but I decided long ago that all those silly books on 'borders' were poor excuses for Christians to mute life experience and emotion. While on my way to Sweet Tomatoes-- planning to call from the parking lot and make sure she was still sick-- literally 20 seconds before pulling in, I received a call from her, confirming that she was, indeed, still ill. I proceeded to grab a large to-go bowl of The Worlds Best Chicken Noodle Soup, a bag full of corn and sourdough bread, some honey butter, and continued on my trek to cheer up my sickly friend.

I rent the condo that I live in from an unsaved friend who has decided that he hates Arizona and is living in Seattle for 6 months to test the weather. Over the holidays, he came back to town and asked if I could pick him up from the airport, Sunday evening at around 7:30pm. I usually attend Church services from 6pm to about 7:20pm, and told him it wouldn't be a problem. Upon driving my usual 30 minute drive to Church that evening, while pulling into the parking lot, I received a call from my friend telling me that he had mixed the timezones up and had just landed, and wondered if I could pick him up at 6:30pm instead. He said he could wait around for an hour if necessary. Upon reflecting about how Jesus would love my unsaved friend, I concluded that He likely wouldn't even hesitate to miss Church services to serve my friend. I pulled back out of the parking lot and drove back 30 minutes to the airport-- which, unfortunately, is right by where I live.

And, in conclusion, I have noticed that I've kept His commandments much better this past week.