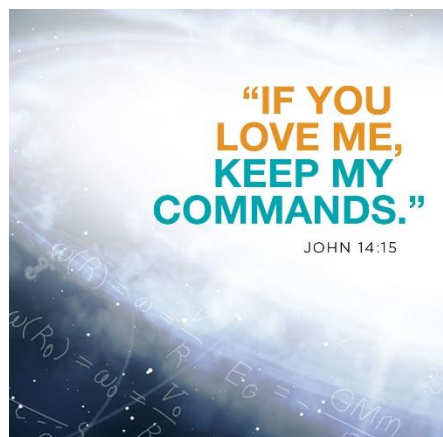




Message 2

IF YOU KNOW ME...THEN...KEEP MY COMMANDS

John 14:15-21

This sermon series is called **IF/THEN**. The premise comes from the "If-Then" conditional statement. This concept is fundamental in math, science, and even computer programming. This concept applies to several key teachings of Christ. As we dive into John chapters 14 and 15, we learn this; If you **really know Jesus** then you know some pretty incredible truths about salvation, God the Father, and living an empowered life. It's one thing to **know about** another person, and it's a whole different thing to **actually know** that person through a mutually beneficial and encouraging relationship. In a similar vein, it's one thing to know about Jesus: The facts and figures of His life, the names of his family, apostles, etc... It's a whole different thing to have a relationship with Jesus. A mutually beneficial and encouraging relationship takes time to develop and years to cultivate. That's the truth in our human relationships and it's true with Jesus. So, **IF** you really know Jesus, **THEN** you know about the abundant, eternal life he came to give us (*John 10:10*).

IF YOU KNOW JESUS, THEN YOU _____ HIS COMMANDS. 14:15

It's easy to love Jesus. He's patient, kind, gentle, and lowly. He literally traded His life so that we could experience eternal life and salvation. But obedience is hard. Following the commands of Jesus to love, forgive, and extend mercy is all so difficult. We can all admit that obedience is difficult. It's difficult to learn, difficult to teach, and it's a difficult process to watch play out in the lives of others (i.e. parenting) around us. It's not something we're good at, hard wired for, or frankly... enjoy.

IF YOU KNOW JESUS, THEN WILL KNOW THE _____ OF TRUTH. 14:16-17

But what about the difficulty? What about the fact that my fleshly desires and inclinations don't line up with the self-giving love of Christ? The amazing part about this is that Jesus has an answer for our difficulty as well. Thankfully He gave us a helper, the Holy Spirit. And thankfully, through the enabling of the Spirit we can enter into the life giving and sacrificial love shared by Jesus and God.

Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit to be with his disciples, to help and guide them... He calls this "*The Spirit of Truth*." The Holy Spirit empowers us to love and obey Jesus, giving us the strength and wisdom we need to follow his teachings. The Spirit helps us to discern between right and wrong, truth and falsehood. And, through the Holy Spirit, we can experience a deeper intimacy with Jesus and a greater ability to live out his commands. **Romans 8:9, Galatians 4:6, Ephesians 2:22**

IF YOU KNOW JESUS, THEN JESUS WILL _____ IN YOU. 14:18-20

Jesus promises that he will not leave his disciples as orphans but will come to them. They are part of a larger family when they are part of Christ, loved by Christ and through Christ. What an amazing thing to think about. We are not alone. God will never leave nor forsake us. He is with us always. This truth is a foundational and fundamental reality that we live in as Christians. IF you have Jesus, THEN you are never alone. He too lives in us!

IF YOU KNOW JESUS, THEN YOU WILL LOVE HIM AND _____ WILL LOVE YOU. 14:21

Jesus' love for us is the foundation of our love for him - we can love him because he first loved us (1 John 4:19). It is because of this love that we can experience the redemptive and eternal love of the Father as well. And as we experience and receive Jesus' love, we are empowered to love him in return and to share his love with others. This is the ultimate commission - this is the call on our lives. To love others as we have been loved and to invite everyone we can into this amazing gospel.

Those who keep the commands of Jesus show their love for Jesus and are therefore loved by the Father as well. The Father loves those who love and obey His Son (i.e. as his adopted, obedience children). Loving Jesus is not just an abstract concept - it is demonstrated through our obedience to his commandments, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and rooted in his love for us. Remember this; We have been giving an advocate and helper to assist us when things get difficult. We need the Holy Spirit, we need each other, we need encouragement, we need gratitude and praise. These things don't make us weak or deficient, they make us human.

And God knew we'd need help.

He knew we would need to be loved **Romans 8:9, Galatians 4:6, Ephesians 2:22** and feel loved by Him.

He knew we'd need one another.

He knew we'd need Jesus.

(Added thought)

Grace does not negate obedience, nor does obedience diminish grace. We are saved by grace (not by works) and obey with the proper motivation of love.