



Living in Christ - May 2022

John 14:21-29

21 Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" 23 Jesus answered 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 home with him. 24 Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

25 "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. 28 You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. 29 And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe.

This morning's text teaches us that those who love Christ also keep his commands. Pastor Nathan shares a story at the beginning of the sermon that illustrates the difference between loving Jesus and obeying his commands. Count Nicholas Zizendorf was a devout believer in Christ, but didn't let this transformation of heart impact the way he lived his life. Zizendorf had a realization of this and wrote, "I have loved Christ

for a long time, but I have never actually done anything for Him. From now on, I will do whatever He leads me to do.” This leads to an important question: What are the commands of Christ? Studying the book of John leads to the discovery of several commands, a few of which include Following, loving, believing, abiding, and receiving.

Questions:

- What does it mean to truly obey Christ?

- What invitations or commands do you sense Christ extending to you?

- Have you ever loved Christ, but avoided following his invitations?

- What does it mean to follow, believe, and abide in Christ?

