

Men's Study Discussion Guide

Sermon Text: John 14:15–27

Theme: Where Is God? The Holy Spirit Living in Us

Big Idea

God's address is not a distant place but **the lives of His people**. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus lives **in and among believers**, and His presence becomes visible to the world through **our obedience and Christ-like lives**.

Detailed Sermon Summary

The sermon begins with a simple but profound question:

Where is God?

If we were writing a letter to God, **what address would we put on the envelope?**

This question can be answered in several ways.

- **Biblically:** Psalm 115 says God is in heaven.
- **Personally:** In moments of loneliness or suffering we ask, "Where is God in this darkness?"
- **Evangelistically:** If someone wants to encounter God, where should they go?

Jesus answers this question in **John 14**, during the final night of His earthly life.

The Context: Jesus Is Leaving

These words occur during **Passion Week**, shortly before the crucifixion.

Leading up to this passage:

- John 12 — The triumphal entry into Jerusalem
- John 13 — Jesus washes the disciples' feet and institutes the Lord's Supper
- John 14 — Jesus comforts the disciples

Repeatedly Jesus tells them **He is going away**:

- "Where I am going, you cannot come."
- "You cannot follow me now."
- "I am going away."

This creates deep anxiety among the disciples. Their teacher, leader, and friend is leaving them.

But in the middle of that troubling news, Jesus gives a promise:

If He leaves, someone else will come.

Who Is the Holy Spirit?

Jesus describes the Spirit in three important ways.

1. Another of the Same Kind

Jesus says the Father will send “**another Counselor.**”

The Greek word used for “another” means **another of the same kind**, not something completely different.

To illustrate:

- An **apple and an orange** are different kinds.
- **Two apples** are different but the same kind.

Jesus is essentially saying:

The Spirit will not replace Him with something different.

Instead, the Spirit will be **His continued presence** with His followers.

In this sense, the Holy Spirit is **the Spirit of Jesus Himself.**

Jesus remains present with His people through the Spirit.

2. The Counselor (Paraclete)

The word translated Counselor is **Paraclete**, which is difficult to translate with a single English word.

Different Bible translations render it differently:

- Counselor
- Advocate
- Helper
- Comforter
- Friend

The literal idea is **someone who stands beside you to help.**

A person who:

- Supports you, Defends you, Encourages you, Walks with you

One scholar calls the Spirit “**the true friend.**”

The Spirit is not distant or impersonal.

He is the **one who stands beside believers in every moment of need.**

3. The Spirit of Truth

Jesus also calls Him “**the Spirit of truth.**”

Earlier in the same chapter Jesus says:

“I am the way, the truth, and the life.”

Jesus is **truth in the flesh.**

The Spirit continues that work by **teaching and reminding believers of the truth.**

Jesus taught the truth.

The Spirit helps believers **remember, understand, and live it.**

Where Is God?

After describing who the Spirit is, Jesus answers the key question:

Where will the Spirit be?

He says:

- “He will be **with you forever.**”
- “He lives **with you and will be in you.**”
- “We will **make our home with them.**”

In other words:

God’s address becomes the lives of His people.

If someone asks where God is, Jesus’ answer is:

Look at the lives of believers.

The First Problem: How Will the World See God?

This creates a challenge.

If God lived in a visible place—like a building or a city—people could visit Him.

But if God lives **inside believers**, how will the world recognize Him?

Jesus acknowledges this problem when He says:

“The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him.”

The Spirit is **invisible**, so the world cannot physically see Him.

The sermon illustrates this with a fictional example: if believers had a glowing mark showing the Spirit lived inside them, everyone would immediately know who belonged to God.

But we have **no glowing sign.**

So how does the world recognize God’s presence?

The Second Problem: Do We See God in Ourselves?

There is another challenge.

When we hear that the **God who created the universe lives within believers**, we may wonder:

Does my life really reflect that reality?

Our experience may not always feel dramatic or supernatural.

Even strong emotional experiences cannot fully explain the presence of the Creator living within us.

Yet Scripture consistently repeats this truth:

- Believers are **God's temple** (1 Corinthians 3).
- The Holy Spirit **lives in us** (1 Corinthians 6).
- God **dwells among His people** (2 Corinthians 6).
- The church is **a dwelling place for God** (Ephesians 2).

God truly does live **in and among His people**.

God Lives in Us Together and Individually

These passages reveal two important realities.

God Dwells Among His People

Sometimes the Bible speaks of believers **collectively** as God's temple.

This means God's presence is experienced especially in the **community of believers**.

When Christians gather together, God is present among them.

God Dwells in Individual Believers

Other passages speak **personally**.

God does not only dwell among the church—He also lives **within each believer**.

Jesus even connects this idea with His promise about heaven.

In John 14, Jesus says He is going to prepare a place for believers.

But in the same chapter, He promises to **make His home with them now**.

The future promise is that believers will live with God.

The present promise is that **God lives with believers now**.

How Do We Know God Lives in Us?

This leads to the final question:

How will we know that God truly lives in us?

And how will the world see Him?

Jesus gives a clear answer:

Through obedience.

Throughout John 14, Jesus repeats a consistent pattern:

- “If you love me, keep my commands.”

- “Whoever obeys my commands loves me.”
- “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching.”

Obedience does **not earn God’s love**.

Instead, obedience **reveals that His love is already at work in us**.

When God lives within someone, their life gradually begins to reflect **the character of Jesus**.

Jesus Living Through Us

The sermon ends with a powerful illustration.

If Jesus is the original “apple,” then believers are meant to be **another apple of the same kind**.

Not identical—but **recognizably similar**.

In other words:

- Jesus lived through the Spirit.
- The Spirit lives in believers.
- Believers begin to live like Jesus.

The world sees Jesus when they see:

- our character, our words, our actions, our obedience

In that sense, believers become a reflection of Christ to the world.

When people encounter Christians, they should begin to recognize **something of Jesus in them**.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Passage

1. Why do you think Jesus emphasized that He was **leaving** before promising the Spirit?
 2. What does the phrase “**another Counselor**” reveal about the Holy Spirit?
 3. Why is the title “**Spirit of truth**” important?
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Wrestling with the Message

4. Why might people struggle to believe that God truly lives within believers?
 5. What are some ways the world might misunderstand the presence of God in Christians?
 6. How does the idea that believers are **God’s temple** change how we view our daily lives?
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Gospel Reflection

7. Why does Jesus connect **love and obedience** so closely in this chapter?

8. What does it mean practically to reflect Jesus in everyday life?

Living It Out

1. Remember Where God Is

This week, remind yourself that God's presence is not limited to church buildings.

If you belong to Christ, **His Spirit is with you wherever you go.**

2. Reflect Jesus in Daily Life

Ask yourself:

If people interacted with me today, would they see something of Jesus?

Focus on areas where Christlike character can grow:

- Patience, humility, kindness, truthfulness

3. Value Christian Community

Because God dwells among His people, prioritize time with other believers.

Worship, fellowship, and encouragement are ways we experience God's presence together.

4. Walk in Obedience

Choose one command of Jesus this week and intentionally practice it.

For example:

- forgive someone, perhaps yourself
- show generosity
- speak truth with grace
- serve someone in need

Obedience becomes visible evidence of God's work within us.