

Morning Sermon January 6, 2019
"The Christ-Father-Us-Connection" John 14:6-14

I. *It is impossible to come to the Father without Christ –*
Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (John 14:6 NKJ)

1. *This goes against the politically correct idea that there are many ways to God / Heaven –*
"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12 NKJ)

2. *The politically correct idea that there are many ways to God or many equal gods and goddesses is really a form of atheism and idolatry –*
<To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.> The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good. (Psalm 14:1 NKJ)

II. *If you have known / seen Christ; you have known / seen the Father –*
"If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."⁸ Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us."⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? (John 14:7-9 NKJ)

Notice, Philip had not arrived, he is still yearning for something he did not yet have or something he had (God had given it to him) but he had not realized he had it yet.

*"Many know Christ, who yet do not know what they might know of Him, nor see what they should see in Him."
Matthew Henry*

1. *Knowledge of God is a gift from God –*
Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I *am* the LORD; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with their whole heart. (Jeremiah 24:7 NKJ)

2. *Yet our knowledge of God is something we must grow in –*
A. *Notice how heart purity and seeing God are connected –*
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. (Matthew 5:8 NKJ)
Even in Jeremiah 24:7 this was the case ... for they shall return to Me with their whole heart. (Jeremiah 24:7 NKJ)

B. *Our relationship with God – Love we have from Him:*
• *Is a gift -*
Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us,

• *It is a gift that changes us*
that we should be called children of God!

• *It is a gift that makes us different, unknown to the world-*
Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

• *It has changed us and is still changing us -*
² **Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.**

• *It also involves our purifying / changing ourselves*
³ **And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. (1 John 3:1-3 NKJ)**

III. *Christ and the Father are One, In each other –*
"Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own *authority*; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works."¹¹ "Believe Me that I *am* in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves. (John 14:10-11 NKJ)

1. *The unity of the Godhead is taught here, the Holy Spirit is also mentioned, a few verses later –*
"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever--¹⁷ "the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. (John 14:16-17 NKJ)

2. *Jesus had taught His Oneness with the Father before –*
"I and My Father are one." (John 10:30 NKJ)

3. Verse :11 – *Jesus' works were proof He was and is God, that God was with Him; in Him –*

There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.² This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." (John 3:1-2 NKJ)

IV. *Christ is our connection for wonder-working power – We should labor, as enabled by God to be one with Christ by faith -*
"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. (John 14:12 NKJ)

1. *Believing in Jesus and miracles –*

And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.¹⁹ Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?"²⁰ So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."²¹ "However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting." (Matthew 17:18-21 NKJ)

- A. *Not power for selfishness, but for the work of God*
- B. *Lack of faith hindered even Jesus' disciples who were casting out demons – Matthew 17:20 A*
- C. *We should expect great things, moving mountains, nothing being impossible – Matthew 17:20 B*
- D. *Some demonic powers are stronger, more difficult – Matthew 17:21*

2. *Now there certain signs / wonders limited to the Apostles / Apostolic age –*

For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:12 NKJ)

3. *Yet, the greater works which Christ's speaks of I believe have to still be available today –*

Great works in conversions, great sacrifice, suffering, service and God can still do miracles -

he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. (John 14:12 NKJ)

A. *These are available to us because Christ is interceding for us, and continues to –*

But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood.²⁵ Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.²⁶ For such a High Priest was fitting for us, *who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;*²⁷ (Hebrews 7:24-26 NKJ)

B. *It is wrong for us to make excuses, better to grow in intimacy with and subjection to God –*

"If you love Me, keep My commandments. (John 14:15 NKJ)

V. *Christ is our connection for answered prayer –*

"And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son."¹⁴ "If you ask anything in My name, I will do it." (John 14:13-14 NKJ)

- 1. *This is a continuation of what has already been said in verse :12*
- 2. *Greater works, faith comes with the Word - So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17 NKJ)*
And prayer –

"However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting." (Matthew 17:21 NKJ)

3. *Prayer in Jesus Name –*

- A. *His Name only has clout / authority with God!*
- B. *His Name has authority because –*

• *He is God's beloved Son –*

And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:17 NKJ)

• *He is sinless –*

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as we are, yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:15 NKJ)

C. *His name has authority for us, because He died for us – and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, (Revelation 1:5 NKJ)*

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