

Giving  
Glory to  
God

The diagram features a dark grey background on the left. A white line starts from the text 'Giving Glory to God' and splits into four blue lines that branch out to the right. Each blue line is accompanied by a thin red horizontal line, which serves as a separator for the words 'Hope', 'Peace', 'Joy', and 'Love' listed vertically on the right side of the image.

Hope

Peace

Joy

Love



## The text – John 15:8-17

By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another."



# The background

This is what the disciples had gone through in recent days. They had been having a recurring version of “Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day”.

“(Alexander) went to sleep with gum in his mouth and woke up with gum in his hair. When he got out of bed, he tripped over his skateboard and by mistake dropped his sweater in the sink while the water was running.”  
And it got worse!



# The background

Exactly what had been happening?

- A return to a place of great danger - Bethany (12:1, 9-11)
- The triumphant entry into the city (John 12:12-18)
- Jesus' first teaching on being glorified and necessity of death (John 12:23-26)
- The disciples' argument about their position (Luke 22:24-29)
- The foot washing and Peter's first reluctant and then overexuberant response to Jesus' offer to wash their feet. (13:1-17)
- Jesus has predicted His betrayal (13:18-21, Psalm 41:9)
- The disciples questioned Jesus' prediction (13:22-25)
- Jesus answered, and the disciples ignored Him (13:26-29)
- Judas left in a huff (13:30)
- Jesus' second discussion about being glorified (13:31-32)
- Jesus' discussion about going where they can't follow, and prediction of Peter's denial (13:36-38)

It's here we begin to see Jesus' wonderful message of hope, of peace, of joy, and of love.



# Jesus' message of Hope

Jesus started with a message of hope, in 14:1 and again in 14:27

- Let not your hearts be troubled. (14:1)
- Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. (14:27)
- Why? 'I am going away and I am coming to you.' (14:2-3, 28)
- I WILL see you again! (16:22)
  - The Christian's hope is a SURE THING:
    - I have told you now before it happens so that when it does happen you may believe. (14:29 CSB)



# Jesus' message of Hope

There's an old hymn, author unknown, published in 1799, that I love – specifically about the hope of a Christian.

We travel through a barren land,  
With dangers thick on every hand;  
But Jesus guides us through the vale;  
The Christian's hope can never fail.

Huge sorrows meet us as we go,  
And devils aim our overthrow;  
But vile infernals can't prevail;  
The Christian's hope shall never fail.

Sometimes we're tempted to despair,  
But Jesus makes us then his care;  
Though numerous foes our souls assail,  
The Christian's hope shall never fail.

We trust upon the sacred word –  
The oath and promise of our Lord;  
And safely through each tempest sail;  
The Christian's hope shall never fail.



# Jesus' message of Hope

Those promises? How many times did Jesus tell them, promise them, just in this specific context, what WOULD happen so they/we would KNOW?

- I WILL come again/I WILL take you to myself (14:3)
- Whatever you ask in my name, this I WILL do (14:13)
- If you ask me anything, I WILL do it. (14:14)
- I WILL ask the Father/He WILL give you another Helper. (14:16)
- He (the Spirit) WILL be in you (14:17)
- I WILL not leave you as orphans (14:18)
- I WILL come to you (14:18)
- You WILL see me (14:19)
- You also WILL live (14:19)
- You WILL know ... (14:20)
- ...WILL be loved by my Father
- I WILL love him/WILL manifest myself to him (14:21)
- My Father WILL love him 14:23
- We WILL come to him/we WILL make our home with him (14:23)
- ...the Father WILL send (the Helper) in my name 14:26
- (the Helper) WILL teach you all things/WILL bring to your remembrance all I have said 14:26
- Peace I LEAVE you; My Peace I GIVE you (14:27)



## Jesus' message of Peace

Speaking of peace, next is His message of peace. Remember, this is not peace with the world. We only have to look at the end of this chapter and the beginning of 16 to realize that. (15:18, 23-25, 16:2-3)

Instead, it is peace with God!

- "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you." (14:27)
- "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world!" (16:33)



# Jesus' message of Joy

It moves on to Jesus' message of joy – 15:11 and again in 16:22

- “These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”
- “...You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy... So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. (16:20, 22 ESV)



# Jesus' message of Love

Finally, we have Jesus' message of love. This seems to be the overriding theme of this entire section, even of Jesus' life.

- Jesus makes mention a number of times of His commandment. What is that commandment?
  - Matthew 22:35-40 (Mark 12:28-31)  
Love God, love your neighbor
  - Followed by John 13:34-35, John 14:15, 21, 23-24, 31
  - And working through 15:9-10, 12-13, 17
  - And finally, in 17:23, 24, and 26.
  - And then, 1 John 4:7-21, with emphasis on 19-21.



# Jesus' message of Love

Because of His love for us (and ours for Him)

- We keep His commandments
  - We love one another!
- We bear fruit as we abide in His love
- “He (Jesus) is forming them into a new community called the church. This new community will be recognizable because of the people’s deep love for one another, their commitment to obeying Jesus’s instructions, and their experience of joy.”  
(Matt Carter & Josh Wredberg, Exalting Jesus in John)
- Take a good look around you. See the person sitting behind or in front of you, across the aisle from you, or at the end of your aisle. They are the people Jesus is calling us to love, the people of whom Jesus said “Everyone will know you are My disciples, if you love one another. (13:35)” Together, we are, as Peter said, ‘a peculiar people.’ (1 Peter 2:9 KJV)



So that

Jesus is working this entire discussion around the concept that we are to abide in Him. We experience His hope, His peace, His joy, and His love only when we abide in Him. look at 14:20-21, 15:4, 5, 6 and 7.

As we are in Him we

- Will have His peace (John 14:27; 16:33)
- Will have His joy (John 15:11)
- Have redemption through His blood (Ephesians 1:7)
  - The forgiveness of our sins
- Have an inheritance (Ephesians 1:11)
- Are sealed with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13)
- Will do good works (Ephesians 2:10)
  - Already prepared for us by God
- Are one with other believers (Ephesians 2:19-22)
- Will have boldness and confident access through faith in him (Ephesians 3:12)
- May know the extent of God's love (Ephesians 3:18)
- Will know Christ's love that surpasses knowledge (Ephesians 3:19)
  - so that [we] may be filled with all the fullness of God
- Glorify the Father by bearing much fruit (15:8)



# To what end?

“In this is my Father glorified...”

We saw it back in 13:31-32, again in 14:13, and in 15:8. It will continue into chapter 17- all to the glory of God.

After all, the Westminster Shorter Catechism reminds us that the chief end of man is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him for ever.

Q1. What is the chief end of man?

A1. Man's chief end is to glorify God,

- “For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.” (Romans 11:36)
- “So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” (1 Corinthians 10:31)
- “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.” (Revelation 4:11)

A1a. and to enjoy him forever.

- “Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.” (Psalm 73:25-26)