

## The Jesus Way

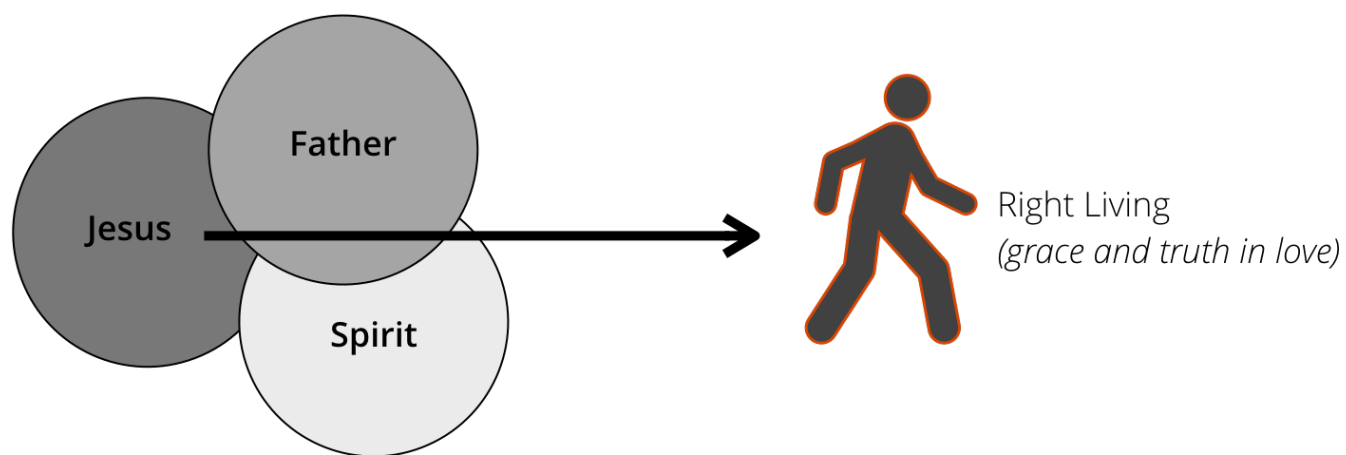
### Where He Lives

**Philippians 3:7-16; John 17; Colossians 3:1-4; 1 Peter 2:21-23, 4:1-2; Acts 10:38; Matthew 12:28; Luke 4:1-2, 14-28; Hebrews 12:2; Acts 1:2**

During the earthly ministry of Jesus, we see Him demonstrate what it means to live as a human in the same way that God desires believers to live. One important realization that we must make is that Jesus was able to live that kind of life because of His fellowship in the Trinity. Jesus never lived outside of who He is as God. He was indeed confined to a physical body, yet, He flourished and functioned in the unique relationship and position He had with the Father and the Holy Spirit in that physical body.

It was out of this deep relationship with the Father and the Holy Spirit that Jesus was what he was and acted as He acted. In no way can we divorce the earthly experience of Jesus in human flesh from His spiritual union and position in the Trinity. Jesus always functioned out of who He was, and He never acted outside of His relationship to the Father and the Spirit. It's this basic, yet, profound reality that we must understand if we are to embrace a life of discipleship in Jesus.

This diagram helps to visualize this lifestyle of Jesus on earth.



This living, dynamic lifestyle of Jesus must be fully understood if we are to truly become like our Master. To more fully grasp what we mean by this idea of becoming like our Master, let's first take a look at how Jesus lived a human life in submission to the Father. One of the more challenging things to consider when we study Jesus is to try to wrap our minds around the way that Jesus functioned on earth in relationship to the Father. We know that Jesus is indeed God, yet we find Him saying things that seem "un-Godlike" to us. In our human efforts to define Jesus in an "unlimited" sense in terms of His role, power, and authority over all things, we fail to allow Him to define Himself in His Trinitarian role as a human being.

The most obvious example of Jesus' submission to the Father is seen in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night before His death. We read of Jesus saying confusing words to us, yet very practical and real words when we understand the nature of the Trinity. Jesus requests of His Father that the cup of wrath prepared for Him on the cross might pass from Him. These aren't mystical words or allegorical, they are real and a literal reflection of the human Jesus. Yet, in that moment of personal desire to withdraw from His death, Jesus yields his desire to that of the Father and goes on to embrace the cross. This is but one example of Jesus doing all things that the Father willed and not His own.

Another important distinction to consider, when we look at Jesus' life on earth, is His dependence on the Holy Spirit. This is another area of the lifestyle of Jesus that is surprising to us as we see Jesus live out this principle. From the very beginning of Jesus' ministry period, we are faced with the reality of the presence of the Holy Spirit in Jesus.

In His baptism, Jesus is visibly marked by the arrival of the Spirit upon Him. In Matthew, Jesus states that his supernatural power to cast out demons and heal is from the Spirit. In Luke, Jesus resists the temptation from the Devil by the power of the Spirit. In Acts, Jesus' ascension is categorized as spoken words of power and instruction by the power of the Spirit.

In these two areas of submission to the Father's will and dependence on the Holy Spirit, we see Jesus demonstrate the union of the Trinity. As Jesus yielded to the Father's will, the Spirit's power was activated in His life. This is most visible in the Garden of Gethsemane as Jesus followed the Father's will over His own and then was led by the Spirit's power as He went to the cross. This is precisely the new paradigm of spiritual life in the context of the Trinity that Jesus modeled for His disciples. Being a disciple of Jesus today means learning to live more and more in this same spiritual context of the Trinity.

## The Jesus Way: What He Offers

**John 1:14-17, 14:6; 1 John 5:20; 2 Corinthians 12:8-9; Romans 1:1-5; Acts 15:11; Titus 2:11; Hebrews 1:1-4; Ephesians 4:21; 1 Timothy 3:15**

When we consider Jesus in the full sense of where He lived, we initially recognize the place that He lived out of (position in the Trinity), but we must also clearly see that He was supremely missional in His lifestyle. He came as the third person in the Trinity and His role was expressly stated as the source and deliverer of grace and truth to humanity.

Jesus is presented as the grace of God toward us his broken image bearers. The role of Jesus in the Trinity is to be the gift (grace) of God into our lives. It is through this avenue of a free gift that broken image bearers can be restored back to God and Jesus is that gift. He alone has the saving power to redeem a broken image bearer from his/her position as an enemy of God to the position as a son/daughter of God and then to enable him/her to be transformed in lifestyle and character. This is most clearly explained in Romans 3:21-26 where Paul explains the reality of the need for this gift, and that the gift is found only in Jesus.

The other key area of the role of Jesus is the principle of truth that Jesus brings to humanity. John 1 clearly states the Jesus Himself is truth and He is the word. That being said, the Bible takes on a new meaning to us as His redeemed people. In it we find the revelation of God's truth to us in every area of life. It is a holistic definition of how God views everything; it is how God values life and how life should then be lived according to Him. Through Jesus, then, we are informed of the will of the Father and we are given an opportunity to be shaped and transformed by the truth.

When we consider the qualities of grace and truth that Jesus offers to us, often times we forget the context or the way that Jesus demonstrated this grace and truth. We like to view the grace and truth of Jesus in terms of a curriculum or a set of teachings that are presented to us in a classroom. Nothing could be further from the truth. To really know grace and truth is to know them in the context of biblical, sacrificial love. Jesus always intended for us to grasp what He offers to us, but He also wanted us to embrace how He offered it to us. Without selfless love it is impossible to know and demonstrate grace. Without selfless love, truth becomes spiritual facts and figures, nuts and bolts to be bragged about but never lived in.

If discipleship is the process through which we are transformed, then it must involve pursuing Jesus in two areas: the place where Jesus lives and the lifestyle of love that offers grace and truth to us through His Word. Discipling others then must also involve leading them into pursuing Jesus in these two areas.