



## Our Helper in Christlikeness John 14:15-21

**We have been given “another helper” like Jesus to be like Jesus.**

<sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, <sup>17</sup> even the Spirit of truth...

### **Text Message:**

- o This section of John’s Gospel is referred to as the “Farewell Discourse.”
- o The key phrase here is “another Helper.”
- o Notice the ESV has capitalized the word “Helper”

and gives alternate translations in the footnote as “Advocate” or “Counselor.”

- o The reason for the various translations is that it is difficult to describe the Holy Spirit in a single word/term.
- o The word “Helper” is the Greek word παρακλητος (*parakletos*) and refers to one who is called alongside another.
- o That Jesus says the Holy Spirit is “another” Helper, means He is like Jesus.
- o Put it together, the Holy Spirit is given to disciples of Jesus for disciples of Jesus to act as Jesus would act.

## **We are called to live out our love and obedience to Jesus in community.**

<sup>15</sup> “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

### **Text Message:**

- o This section of Jesus’ teaching “bookends” with instructions about loving Jesus and keeping His commandments.
- o Both of the “you” pronouns in Verse 15 are plural.
- o Here Jesus addresses His disciples as a community. In Verse 21 He refers to our individual obedience.
- o We cannot live out our love and obedience to Jesus in isolation, but in community we practice all

the “one another” instructions in the New Testament.

- o Many of these one another instructions are given to live out “being like Jesus” in the grit of the local church:

“...bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.”

Colossians 3:13

- o Others are given to instruct us on “being like Jesus:”

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16

- o All of these “one anothers” are lived out through the Holy Spirit, the One called to be alongside the Church.

## **We must cooperate with the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.**

**Verse 21:**

### **Text Message:**

- o In other words, being like Jesus requires effort!
- o Here the picture of “keeping” Jesus’ commands carries the idea of guarding something carefully, giving attention to it.

- o Similarly, the Apostle Paul instructs, “train yourself for godliness” (1 Timothy 4:7).
- o Someone has said that spiritual growth requires both inspiration and perspiration! Without the Holy Spirit, we cannot. Without us, the Holy Spirit will not.

