

(Supper and After)**Long Distance Relationship**

- Ever been in, or known someone in a, long-distance relationship?
 - hard work of communication, different kinds of things you get to know - or not know - about each other
 - perhaps easier in the age of internet, Skype, text and other readily available modes of communication?
 - challenging! And with a high failure rate...
- So why does Jesus, who has drawn close to us in his earthly life, his close relationship with the disciples, apparently opt for a LDR?
 - *"Now I am going to him who sent me"* (v.5)
- Disciples clearly don't relish the prospect of increased distance:
 - *Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief.* (v.6)
- Because it will be better:
 - *But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.* (v.7)
- (Maybe we recognise a glimmer of this truth in human relationships - perhaps times when distance forces us into better communication, bigger picture rather than caught up in the headiness of a new relationship?)

Having the Holy Spirit is better than having Jesus physically present!**The Holy Spirit will convict of sin**

- You've done wrong...

The Holy Spirit will convict of righteousness

- Righteousness is what is required - only such as found in Jesus is enough
 - (and transferred to us through Jesus work on the Cross)

The Holy Spirit will convict of judgement

- And the consequence of the gap between sin and righteousness is judgement
- This is a spiritual work, not something we can force people to
 - (lead a horse to water but can't make it drink...)

Conversion!

- In other words, without the Holy Spirit we could not be in full-formed relationship with Jesus, we could not be saved!

A Relationship that Grows

- What does a growing relationship look like:
 - more honest
 - more trusting
- Truth comes from God; righteousness comes from God
 - need to be appropriated....
 - our use of the language of "learning" skews what John is talking about, and we default to head knowledge, not a whole-life shaped by...
 - this truth was *"more than you can now bear"* - they needed to mature, to grow in the practise of following Jesus, of *"abstaining from sinful desires, which war against your soul and living such good lives among the pagans..."* (from 1 Peter 2:11,12)

A Relationship with a Future

- Hope of eternally being with Jesus - (v.16)
 - note the hope is relationship with Jesus, which will issue in no more tears, nice food, party atmosphere, etc
 - not that those good things will come and we'll have to put up with Jesus hanging around...!
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Chat with the Children: Remember

- Today has been a lot about remembering:
 - remembrance, remembering people who fought and particularly died in past conflicts
 - remembering what they gave up for the sake of others...
- What kind of things do people do to help remember?
 - poppies, special services, silence...
- Do you remember what you were learning in Oaks?
- Do the grown-ups remember what we were learning together?
 - can you share it with the kids?