

John 14:1-7

1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And you know the way to the place where I am going." 5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

In the realm of mainstream society, it is a popular opinion that there are many ways to get to God. This assumption is based on human preferences. While there are many people that prefer to believe this, it is not what the Bible teaches. John chapter one establishes the divinity of Christ. Jesus was with God in the very beginning and God delivers the word in flesh. This is the real deal. Whereas, various cultures and societies throughout history have tried to find ways to get to God, this is human effort. The problem with this ideology is that it is not God's way. It is not what God wants. The many ways to get to God mindset lacks a very important key concept. God's way is love. God responds to humanity with love and looks for love as a mutual response from the realm of humanity. Regardless of what people prefer to think, Jesus is a matter of God reaching out to us with love. Jesus delivers God's word to us and Jesus also delivers God's love to us.

If you reject what Jesus teaches in verse six and think that it is ok to accept the viewpoint that there are many ways to get to God, then you fail to understand and appreciate that Jesus is all about God reaching out to us. If you reject God's effort to reach out to us, then you reject God's gift. If you reject God's gift, then you reject God's love. If you reject God's love, then you reject God because God is all about love. God is love. God loves us. God wants humanity to appreciate God's love and to love God back and to love one another. To try to get to God but reject God's love is to not know God. Actually, you end up rejecting God's preferences for human preferences which is the exact same thing that the Pharisees did.

So now let's take a look at the Scripture and see what it is that Jesus is teaching. First of all, there is assurance. This takes place during the Last Supper. Jesus reassures his disciples that they have nothing to fear. Believing is the key. To believe in God is to believe in Jesus and to believe in Jesus is to believe in God. The Bible teaches that Jesus is the real deal. In John chapter one they are in it together, linked as one, if you reject one then you reject the other. The assurance that Jesus offers is salvation. This is the main leitmotif of the Bible. There are no worries. If you believe in God and Jesus then you are going to the heavenly realm. Jesus came from heaven, returned to heaven, and prepares a place for us within the heavenly realm. And on top of this, you know the way. Jesus is the way. Jesus is going to his death and his death provides the gateway to God. This is where some disagree. But remember, the other methods are about people trying their own way to reach God instead of accepting God's way of love.

It may be beneficial to us to take a moment and notice the response of the disciples. The disciples do not know. This is the same situation of many within contemporary society. They do not know. Since they do not know, they prefer to think that there are different ways to get to God. But God comes to us with love. That is a beautiful thing and that is the most important thing ever. God's way conflicts with human ways. It has always been that way since the very beginning. The human way is greed and selfishness that distorts theology to suit our own needs. That way people can justify having salvation without requiring change or repentance. That way they can continue to live with selfish ambition. It is the will of God vs. the will of humans. It is love, forgiveness, and grace vs. sin and temptation.

If you want to know God, then look at Jesus. You see God when you look at Jesus. What you see is love, compassion, and forgiveness. God and Jesus are together; united together as one. The contemporary lesson is one of developing a degree of understanding. Within society there is popular rhetoric but then there is the teaching of the Bible. Discerning wisdom dictates which to follow – human emotions or the Bible. Jesus is God's persona, character, traits, identity, and virtues. A Christian embraces the persona of Jesus. We are to take on the same characteristics. We are to live our lives by the teachings of Jesus and model our lives after his. Jesus teaches the necessity of believing in him. Our salvation depends on it because Jesus is God's love and there is no other way but God's way. God's way is love.