

No Longer Orphans; John 14:18-21

I. Orphans

- A. God has a special place for orphans (and widows)
- B. James 1:27 (ESV); Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.
- C. Psalm 68:5 (ESV); Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.
- D. Exodus 22:22–24 (ESV); ²² You shall not mistreat any widow or fatherless child. ²³ If you do mistreat them, and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry, ²⁴ and my wrath will burn, and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives shall become widows and your children fatherless.
- E. God's love is such that he will always take care of those who cannot take care of themselves
- F. So it is not a surprise when Jesus says in verse 18, "I will not leave you as orphans"
 - 1. Did the apostles have parents?
 - 2. Of course they did
 - 3. We must look at the spiritual concept of orphans

II. The Garden

- A. There was no sin
 - 1. Adam and Eve walked together with God
 - 2. God was Adam's Father
- B. I cannot imagine the separation that both God and Adam (and Eve) must have felt after they ate the fruit
 - 1. God cursed them and removed them from the Garden — even putting an angel to guard the entrance to ensure they did not get back in
 - 2. That sin, that separation made them orphans
- C. Our sin has made us orphans
 - 1. Ephesians 2:12 (ESV); remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.
 - 2. We are separated from God by our sin
 - 3. Romans 3:23 (ESV); for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
 - 4. Romans 5:12 (ESV); Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—
 - 5. Romans 6:23 (ESV); For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- D. Every single one of us was fatherless at some point in time, some still are
- E. But, remember, God has a special place in His heart for orphans

III. No Longer Orphans

- A. John 14:18–19 (ESV); ¹⁸ "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.
- B. Jesus is talking about his physical presence with the apostles
 - 1. Even though Jesus is leaving them physically He is sending someone to reside with them — physically
 - 2. Make no mistake, the Holy Spirit dwelling in the saved is both physical and spiritual
 - 3. John 14:15–17 (ESV); ¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.
 - 4. God's physical dwelling place during the Mosaic Law was the Mercy Seat on the Ark of the Covenant

5. God's physical dwelling place right now is with — inside — us!
 6. Revelation 21:2–3 (ESV); ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.
- C. This dwelling has a precondition
1. Basic computer programming language
 - a) If (x) then (y)
 - b) A subroutine designed to perform a specific action based on a specific set of circumstances
 2. This physical dwelling of God with us is predicated on our love
 - a) Verse 15, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments"
 - b) Verse 21, "Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father..."
 - c) Verse 23, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."
 3. **If** we love God and keep His commandments (x), **then** God will dwell with us (y)
 4. Our love for God will drive our desire to keep His commandments
- D. But, my focus is on God's love for us — so much so that our status as orphans drove Him to provide an acceptable sacrifice for us, so we would no longer be orphans
- IV. Child of God
- A. 1 John 3:1a (ESV); See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.
 - B. God does not want anyone in this world to be an orphan
 - C. 1 Timothy 2:3–4 (ESV); ³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
 - D. God's love for us is that He wants every single one of us to become His children — Every. Single. One.
 - E. He wants to dwell with us — in us
 - F. We are no longer orphans!