

“Who Is Your Guidance Counselor?”—John 14:25-27

The text for this sermon, the theme of which is, “Who Is Your Guidance Counselor?”, is John 14:25-27 → Jesus told His disciples: *These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.* This is the text.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus:

To whom would you turn for guidance, direction or help in the following situations? ① You are trying to do a home repair project; ② You are learning how to do a particular hobby; ③ You are struggling with a decision in your life; ④ You need some kind of physical assistance to get through a challenging situation, such as money, food or even shelter. While seeking guidance in each of these situations may take a person in different directions, they each require one common attitude: **a person must be willing to ask for guidance and allow himself to be taught.**

Being “teachable” is difficult for us to do in our lives. Most people have a struggle admitting ignorance. In fact, just the word “ignorance”

drums up all kinds of negative imagery of inadequacy, being “dumb,” being “inferior” to others and so forth, to which sinful pride may react and render one “unteachable.” In the midst of such pride we fail to ask for help until we’re fed up, frustrated, angry and ready to give up. Even then we may need someone to convince us to ask for help, doing so only because we’re desperate. Ignorance simply means you do not have sufficient knowledge on a particular subject in order to do a task. We could have saved ourselves much grief by simply humbling ourselves in the first place and seeking the needed guidance. But no! That would be too easy!

As Jesus taught His disciples in our text about His departure in connection to His suffering which would begin that evening, His impending death the next day, His resurrection three days later and His ascension into heaven forty days after that, He told them about the importance of continuing in a life of obedience to His words. Throughout the evening He had placed before them a “new commandment” to love one another in the same way that He had loved them—**unconditionally**. Based upon that unconditional love Jesus taught His disciples many things concerning their relationship to Him and the expression of that relationship toward others.

With Jesus’ absence where would these men find their continued guidance for their lives? In John 14:16-17 Jesus said that He would give

them *another Helper, to be with them forever, even the Spirit of truth,* Whom He promised would dwell *with you and will be in you.* The Greek word which Jesus used for *Helper* literally means “one who walks alongside of another” (i.e. a counselor). In other words, Jesus promised to send them the Holy Spirit to guide them so that they might experience His unconditional love **and** share it with others.

Experiencing the guidance of this “Counselor”—the Holy Spirit—is essential for the Christian faith and life. It is He Who makes us “teachable” in many respects. We need the gift of our Guidance Counselor to:

- ① Experience this unconditional love of Jesus for us sinners. It is impossible for us sinners to receive and give out of **pure** grace. Our sinful natures would look for a “catch” or an “angle” or even feel like it has to be reciprocated somehow. So how are we going to trust in Jesus’ complete, total and unconditional forgiveness of our sins? It is the Holy Spirit Who gives us such faith through the Word. 1 Corinthians 2:12 says *we have received . . . not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit Who is from God, **that we might understand the things freely given us by God.** The spirit of the world is filled with trying to earn our way into God’s graces only to experience the constant burden of never being able to do so. The*

Spirit makes that grace in Jesus ours, **no strings attached!**

- ② We need the gift of our Guidance Counselor to reveal this grace of God in Jesus Christ to us at every turn of our lives. Jesus made it clear that the Holy Spirit would always direct us to Him (cf. John 15:26). Everything He does will bring you to Christ. For example, Jesus said the Holy Spirit would *convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because people do not believe in Him* (i.e. the Spirit shows you your sin through the Law so that you see your need for the Savior, Jesus). He convicts *the world . . . concerning righteousness* (i.e. the Spirit applies to you the righteous obedience of Jesus to God's Law and His righteous sacrifice on the cross for the forgiveness of your sins). He convicts *the world . . . concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged* (i.e. He reminds you that Jesus has defeated the devil once and for all so that his power no longer has mastery over you). **The Holy Spirit will always bring you to Jesus, strive to keep you trusting in Jesus and empowering you to serve Jesus.**
- ③ We need the gift of our Guidance Counselor to make us witnesses of God's grace in Jesus Christ to others. We see this so distinctly in the ministry of the apostles. After Jesus' resurrection we find the

apostles scared, hiding from the Jews to avoid the same death as their Teacher. Jesus had told them in Acts 1:8 → *You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.* After receiving the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost these apostles were no longer hiding. Guided by their *Helper* they were publicly proclaiming the resurrection of the dead through faith in Jesus Christ, even amidst persecution and potential death right along with Jesus. In the midst of that persecution it is recorded that *they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and **continued to speak the word of God with boldness*** after being in God's Word and prayer (cf. Acts 4:31). Being a witness for Jesus Christ happens only under the empowering and direction of our Guidance Counselor.

Our Guidance Counselor guides us in this relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ through the written Word. Notice the promise of Jesus in verse 26 of our text: *The Helper, the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and **bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.*** As you spend time with Jesus in the Bible the Holy Spirit will bring that Word to fruition in your life as He reminds you of God's Word.

Just think of all the information and guidance the Holy Spirit gives you

in the Scriptures by His inspiration. It can be very overwhelming. Many Christians have expressed to me their love for reading God's Word as well as their frustration over the fact that they can't remember it all. Here Jesus reassures you that it is not your responsibility to remember it all. Your responsibility is simply to be faithful in letting *the Word of Christ dwell in you richly* (cf. Colossians 3:16) by encountering it so that you may *grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ* (cf. 2 Peter 3:18). The Holy Spirit will take care of the remembrance at the times needed. In fact, according to Jesus' promise in Matthew 10:19-20, He'll provide the very words to speak as you witness: *Do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.*

Your Guidance Counselor always leads you to Christ where you experience what Jesus refers to in our text as the *peace* that only He can give (verse 27). It is a *peace with God* you have because you *have been justified by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ*. It is sins forgiven, burdens lifted and running to God rather than from Him. It is a peace in life, even with all its sufferings, because you have the *hope of the glory of God* in heaven as a certainty through faith in the Person & Work of Christ. Why do we have this *peace of God, which surpasses all understanding* (cf. Philippians 4:7)? ***Because God's love has been poured***

***into our hearts through the Holy Spirit Who has been given to us.***

(cf. Romans 5:1-5) Your Guidance Counselor leads you to the unconditional, forgiving love of Jesus Christ, keeps you in that love and empowers you each day to express that same love to others in your life. The Holy Spirit leading you to Jesus is the basis for Yahweh’s “last word” in every one of our Divine Services—“and give you peace. Amen.”

The peace of God, which passes all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

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