

# John 14:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

## Analysis

Jesus answers Judas' question (verse 22) about selective manifestation: 'If a man love me, he will keep my words' (ean tis agapa me ton logon mou teresei). Love produces word-keeping, using logos (word/teaching) comprehensively. The promise follows: 'and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him' (kai ho pater mou agapesei auton kai pros auton eleusometha kai monen par' auto poiesometha). The plural 'we' indicates both Father and Son. The verb poiesometha (we will make) uses the same root as monai (dwelling places) in 14:2. Believers become dwelling places for the triune God - a staggering promise of divine indwelling. This transcends temple theology - God no longer dwells in stone buildings but in human hearts. The condition remains: love demonstrated through word-keeping secures this intimate presence.

## Historical Context

This verse revolutionizes Israel's temple theology. Solomon's Temple represented God's earthly dwelling, but Christ promises that believers themselves become God's residence through the Spirit. Paul develops this: 'Know ye not that ye are the temple of God?' (1 Corinthians 3:16). Early Christian apologetics emphasized that Christianity requires no temples - God dwells in His people. This verse undergirds sacramental theology (God's presence in Eucharist) and mystical theology (union with God). Monastic tradition emphasized preparing one's heart as dwelling place through spiritual disciplines. Reformation personalized this - each believer, not just

clergy, hosts divine presence. Modern emphasis on corporate worship sometimes neglects this promise of personal divine indwelling. The verse assures that God's presence is not limited to gathered assembly or sacramental moments but abides continuously with loving, obedient believers.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does the promise that Father and Son will make their abode in believers transform our understanding of sanctification?
2. What is the relationship between individual indwelling (verse 23) and corporate indwelling (church as temple)?

## Interlinear Text

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ἀπεκρίθη ὁ Ἰησοῦς καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ Ἐάν τις  
answered G3588 Jesus and said him If a man  
G611 G2424 G2532 G2036 G846 G1437 G5100

ἀγαπήσει με τὸν λόγον μου τηρήσει καὶ ὁ πατήρ  
love me G3588 words my he will keep and G3588 Father  
G25 G3165 G3056 G3450 G5083 G2532 G3962

μου ἀγαπήσει αὐτῷ καὶ πρὸς αὐτῷ ἐλευσόμεθα καὶ  
my love him and unto him we will come and  
G3450 G25 G846 G2532 G4314 G846 G2064 G2532

μονὴν παρ' αὐτῷ ποιησόμεν  
our abode with him make  
G3438 G3844 G846 G4160

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 14:21** (Love): He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

**John 14:15** (Love): If ye love me, keep my commandments.

**1 John 2:24** (Parallel theme): Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.

**1 John 4:4** (Parallel theme): Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

**2 Corinthians 6:16** (Parallel theme): And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

**Psalms 91:1** (Parallel theme): He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

**John 10:30** (Parallel theme): I and my Father are one.

**Isaiah 57:15** (Parallel theme): For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

**John 6:56** (Parallel theme): He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.

**John 14:17** (Parallel theme): Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.