

# 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

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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

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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		
G3450	G25	G846	G2532	G4314	G846	G2064	G2532	
μονήν	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.