

# The Way to Togetherness

John 14:1-14

## Introduction

Jesus says here that He is the **only** way to the Father. What does it mean to be with the Father? Why is this the goal in life? We must know where we came from to know where we are going. So, we must understand the **purpose** for which we were **created**. We did not have to grow into that purpose. When He created, He said about everything that it was **good**. For something to be “good”, it must be complete, lacking nothing. We were what we were **supposed** to be at creation. To understand what that was, we look to the **HIGH PRIESTLY PRAYER** of Jesus in **John 17**.

## Created for Fellowship

### With God

(Read **John 17:20-23**). As we have said before, Jesus’ desire is for us to join in the fellowship of the Trinity, to be **one** with the Father and the Son. Therefore, we were created for **FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD**. God walked with Adam and Eve in the **Garden of Eden**. He had close **fellowship** with them.

### With Each Other

Since we all were to share in that fellowship, we would all share the same close **FELLOWSHIP WITH EACH OTHER**. That is what Jesus is talking about when He asks that we would all be **one**, just as He is **in** the Father and the Father is **in** Him. This is the joy and bliss we were created to enjoy. But **sin** ruined all that.

## Sin Brought Death

God said to Adam and Eve, *“You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die”* (**Genesis 2:16-17**). The penalty for sin is **death**. We talk a lot about death. We say that, since the fall, death is a part of life. Yet, many people still fear death. Why is that? For all our talk about death, we do not really understand it. We fear the unknown. We know that death is a cessation of bodily functions, but is there more to it than that? The answer is, “yes.”

## Death Is Separation

At the most basic level, death is **separation**. At physical death, the soul is separated from the body. We are separated from life. But there is more to the curse of the fall than that. We are also talking here about **spiritual** death. Adam and Eve began the **process** of dying a physical death when they sinned, but they **immediately** died spiritually. Therefore, Paul says in **Ephesians 2:1** that we were dead in trespasses and sins. If **physical** death is the soul being separated from the body, what is **spiritual** death?

### Separation from God

First, we are **SEPARATED FROM GOD**. He cannot have fellowship with one who is **sinful**, because He is **holy**. So, the fellowship with God, for which we were created is broken, destroyed. We are separated from God.

## Separation from Each Other

If the fellowship we shared with God is broken, it stands to reason that our fellowship **with one another** is as well. That is why we see **anger** and **hatred** one to another, **wars, divorce, bullying**, etc. spiritual death SEPARATES US FROM EACH OTHER.

## Separation from Ourselves

It SEPARATES US FROM OURSELVES. That may sound odd, but sin separates us from **sanity, logic, and reason**. Remember, we were created “good”, so these were intact. Notice the **insanity** of humanity. The people who closed churches to protect the vulnerable from dying kept the abortion mills open. In other words, they were saying, “we value life and want to protect one vulnerable segment of the population while we continue to kill another vulnerable segment.” And I get a kick out of people who call themselves scientists and say that it is more **reasonable** and **logical** to believe in random chance that violates all probabilities and the laws of nature than an all-powerful Creator.

## The Way from Separation to Togetherness

Jesus is the way from death to life, from SEPARATION TO TOGETHERNESS, with God, others and ourselves.

## The Defeat of Sin

Of course, if Jesus is going to bring us back **together**, He must get rid of the **cause** for the **separation**. He did that by defeating **sin** on the **cross**. He took our sin upon Himself and gave us His **righteousness**. He went through hell for us on the cross, paying the debt we could never pay. His sacrifice was once for all (Read **Hebrews 9:25-26**).

## Reconciliation

Having gotten rid of the sin, Jesus completes the job of **reconciling** us to the Father (Read **2 Corinthians 5:18-19**). He **reconciles** us to God, but He does not stop there. He gives us the MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION so we can pass on that reconciliation to **others**.

## Means of Grace

He gives us this reconciliation when He works faith in our lives through the **MEANS OF GRACE**. Through **WORD** and **SACRAMENT**, our sins are taken away and our faith is restored. He draws us to himself, reconciling us to the Father and to one another. He is the **ONLY WAY TO TOGETHERNESS**.

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*May the peace of God,  
Which passes all understanding,  
Keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*

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