

Friends of Jesus

John 15:12-17

Chair Bible pg

Main Idea: **Friends of Jesus are characterized by love, obedience, mission, and prayer.**

1) Friends of Jesus are characterized by loving each other unconditionally.

- ***John 13:35*** - **“By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”** (on the screen)
- ***1 John 3:10; 4:20***

V. 12 Jesus says, *“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”*

2) Friends of Jesus are characterized by obeying Christ’s commands.

- ***John 15:10*** - **“If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love... (on the screen)**
- ***John 14:15*** - **Jesus says, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments...” (on the screen)**
- ***Genesis 3:1-4***

V. 14 *“you are my friends if you do what I command you.”*

The heart of sin is rebellion against God’s law. Aka disobedience.

- Cf. Genesis 3
- Obedience is active. Notice Jesus says, “if you DO what I command you.”
- Cf. Matt. 23:23-28
- “Abstinence from evil is a great part of righteousness, but it is not enough for friendship. If a man can say, “I am not a drunkard. I am not dishonest, I am not a violator of the Sabbath, I am not a liar. So far so good. But such righteousness does not exceed that of the scribes and pharisees, and they will not enter the kingdom...It is well if you do not willfully transgress, but if you are to be Christ’s friends there must be far more than this. It would be a poor friendship which only said, “I am your friend, and to prove it, I don’t insult you, I don’t rob you, and I don’t speak evil of you.” Surely there must be more positive evidence to certify friendship.” - Spurgeon
- C.S. Lewis quote

- V. 15 - the difference in servants and friends

3) Friends of Jesus are characterized by going and bearing fruit.

- **John 4:35-36**
- **John 15:5 - “I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, it is he that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.” (on the screen)**

V. 16 *You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide.”*

- God is the initiator. He chose and called
- This is a pre-Great Commission
- “Appointed” (from tithemi) means “set apart or ordained for a special service.’
- Jesus is about to leave the earth. He gives them the calling of going and bearing fruit.
- “Fruit” can mean Christian character (Galatians 5:22) but given the context it more likely means “mission”.
- “The emphasis on “going and bearing” have suggested to many commentators that the fruit primarily in view in this verse is the fruit that emerges from mission, from specific ministry to which the disciples have been sent. The fruit, in short, is new converts. One purpose of election, then, is that the disciples who have been so blessed with revelation and understanding, should win others to the faith.” - D.A. Carson- (Pillar NTC)

4) Friends of Jesus are characterized by praying fruit-bearing prayers.

- **Psalm 37:4 - “Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.” (on screen)**
- **James 4:3**

V. 16 - *“so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.”*

- Praying is for carrying out the mission of God
- Piper - “If your concern is not the kingdom of God and seeing it come to earth, and being conformed to his image so you can go out and bear kingdom fruit....then your prayers go no higher than the ceiling.”
- Piper- Hunger for God

So What?

- **Are you a friend of Jesus?**
 - **James 4:4**
- **Who's Your One?**