

A True Friend Of Jesus

John 15:12-17 (NIV)

[12] My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

[13] Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

[14] You are my friends if you do what I command.

[15] I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

[16] You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit —fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

John 15:17 (NIV)

[17] This is my command: Love each other.

1. Jesus Is The Ultimate Friend to You (vs.12-13)

-You have a friend that loves you very much.

-Who in here feels like they need a friend or two in their lives?

-Who in here would die to have that friend?

-I would not die to have a friend. I would not die at the opportunity to be a friend. I would not die to show what a true friend I can be.

-None us feels like we care about someone enough to die for them to just be my friend.

-The truth is Jesus did that for you. Jesus died to be your friend. He died at the opportunity that you might be his friend. He died to show you his true friendship.

-No bones about it, You have a friend in Jesus!!!

-You have A friend in Jesus.

-You are a rock star to Him. You have celebrity status with him. Jesus could be charged with being a stalker of you..

Let me tell you why...

Psalm 139:1-4

[1] You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. [2] You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. [3] You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. [4] Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely.

-If thats not a stalker, I don't know what is? He is taken by you. He cares about you, your thoughts, and your life. He studies you. He trys to think about what you might think about before you think about it.

-Who has time for that? Ain't nobody got time for that. But God makes that kind of time for you.

Isaiah 49:16-17

[16] See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me.

-Im married and Steve does not have my name tattooed on his hand.

Jesus simply says to us, I am your true friend and if you want to be my friend back, do what I say...

2. Are You Gonna Be An Ultimate to Jesus? (vs. 14-15)

-The simple answer to how to be a friend to Jesus is to do what he says.

-Jesus was born in heaven and lives with and at the right hand of God. He has a place among the greatest and He himself is the greatest.

-None of us in this room can get into the home of some of the greatest people here on earth.

-But Jesus who blows away anyone here on earth is offering us a place amongst God himself by giving us all the information we need to get there.

-He says I could hold back but thats not a true friend. Thats treating you like something less. Im letting you know all of my business And exactly how I got to where I am.

-Jesus is not running a pyramid scheme, he's running the truth.

-This is where the rubber meets the road because our friendship back to him means living like him. It means living a set apart life that looks, smells and taste like Jesus.

-When you go to Jesus' house one day you have to be recognizable to the one who answers the door.

-You have to look like you've been following Jesus.

Being set apart for God means a few things:

1. Means you were called by God, you answered the called and made him Lord which means you gave him charge of your life.

2. It means you were picked and put aside for the workings of God.

3. It means you were separated from the world, you are cut out of the fiber of the world.

-The problem is that we've never been trained for such exclusiveness. We never been set apart before.

-All we know really is what we've been called out of (that world) instead of what we've been called to (his new world)

-We don't see ourselves as anything but same thing that's around us so thats how we are easily entangled in it.

How do we learn to live this set apart life???

YOU MuST SEPARATE YOURSELF FROM THE WORLD

Ephesians 5:1-7

[1] Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children [2] and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. [3] But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. [4] Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of

place, but rather thanksgiving. [5] For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. [6] Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. [7] Therefore do not be partners with them.

-Don't be partners with the world and those who don't know Christ and haven't made that commitment to be "Set Apart Themselves".

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 (NIV)

[14] Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? [15] What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? [16] What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people." [17] Therefore, "Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you." [18] And, "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

The Bible warns us and tells us that we will get corrupted by the company of the world.

1 Corinthians 15:33-34

[33] Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." [34] Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God—I say this to your shame.

-You lose your senses. You start thinking and doing things that are out of sorts of who you're meant to be.

-You forget that you've been plucked out and you start blending in.

-God expects for you to live separatess lives not because you're better but because you are Bought.

-You're not better but bought and at a very high price

-And what you buy at a high price you cherish and are particular over. And that is what God is over you. He's particular!! That's why he's says, "not even a hint", "don't even be partners with them", "touch no unclean thing", "purify from everything that contaminates the body and spirit", etc.

-Now that is being a friend to Jesus. It is making it clear with my life that I belong to Jesus. It should be clear to the world and within the church.

-It is obeying with all my heart. That is my friendship to Jesus.

3. Be An Ultimate friend to Each other And the Lost (vs.16-17)

1 Peter 2:8-10 (NIV)

[9] But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. [10] Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Matthew 22:14 (NIV)

[14] “For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

John 15:19 (NIV)

[19] If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you

Ephesians 4:14-16 (NIV)

[14] Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. [15] Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. [16] From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Ephesians 4:17-28 (NIV)

[17] So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. [18] They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. [19] Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed. [20] That, however, is not the way of life you learned [21] when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. [22] You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; [23] to be made new in the attitude of your minds; [24] and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. [25] Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.

Ephesians 5:8-17

[8] For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light [9] (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) [10] and find out what pleases the Lord. [11] Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. [12] It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. [13] But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. [14] This is why it is said: “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” [15] Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, [16] making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. [17] Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.