



**Sermon Title: "A Friend of the King"**

**Scripture: John 15:12-17**

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Sunday, June 17th, 2018

## **INTRODUCTION**

***John 15:9-11 -***

Note: Christ Himself (and our standing in Him!) is our motivation and instruction to love one another.

***John 15:12, 17 -***

## **I. RIGHTLY RESPONDING TO ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE**

### **A. Our Friendship (Relationship) with Christ Involves...**

1) ...a recognition of His right to command us.

***Matthew 28:18 - "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me."***

2) ...knowing and seeing Christ as the supreme example of self-sacrificing love.

***1 Corinthians 13:4-8 -***

Note: In love, Christ lowered Himself and humbled Himself in ways we cannot fully imagine or comprehend, and we were, in no way, deserving of such sacrifice.

***Philippians 2:5-8; Romans 5:6-8; Colossians 3:12-14 -***

3) ...practical, tangible, ordinary, every-day-kind-of obedience.

Note: Jesus is God, and so He belongs in a category distinct from all your other friendships.

Note: None of your other friends perfectly loves you and always has your good in mind.

Note: None of your other friends has the right to call you "slave" but Jesus does.

***Romans 1:1; Philippians 1:1; Titus 1:1; James 1:1; Jude 1; Revelation 1:1 -***

4) ...knowing God and His will, His plan, His design for all things.

5) ...an understanding that He initiated this relationship.

*1 Peter 2:9; James 1:18; 1 John 4:19; 1 Corinthians 1:30-31 -*

6) ...participating in the most important and significant work in the universe.

*John 15:8; Ephesians 2:10 -*

Note: Our fruit abides in that God remembers it and honors it with eternal rewards.

***Hebrews 6:10 - "For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for His name in serving the saints, as you still do."***

Note: Our fruit abides in that it involves loving, serving, helping, and evangelizing eternal souls!

7) ...us having access to God's abundant, never-ending, never-failing resources.

*E. M. Bounds - "The story of every great Christian achievement is the history of answered prayer."*

***1 John 3:14 - "We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death."***

***1 John 4:7 - "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God."***

### **Take Home Questions for Further Study & Reflection & Application...**

1. Why does Jesus have the right to command us and to give us instruction?
2. How does Jesus explain love? What are the defining characteristics of love?
3. Why is Jesus so qualified to teach on the subject of love? How does He know what love is?
4. Why is it a kind and gracious thing that Jesus calls His disciples "friends"? How does Jesus treat His disciples/followers as friends?
5. Why is it important to know that Jesus is the initiator in our friendship/relationship with Him?
6. What are some ways that love is wrongly described and defined in our world today?
7. Can you think of a time when someone showed you generous, gracious, sacrificial love? What impact did that have on you and on your life?