

Are You A Friend of Jesus?

John 15:12-15

- ▶ **John 15:12-15**
- ▶ On the night of His betrayal, Jesus was gathered with His apostles. He wanted them to know they were more than servants - they were friends.
- ▶ Imagine the depth of that statement.
- ▶ True friendship is something to be cherished - **Proverbs 18:24, 17:17**, etc.
- ▶ We all need friends and we all need Jesus.
- ▶ **What does it mean to be His friend?**

We will seek to be like Him

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- ▶ Friends usually have similar values and interests. It bonds them together.
- ▶ Are we careful who we choose as our friends? **Proverbs 22:24, 1 Corinthians 15:33, Proverbs 12:26**
- ▶ Discipleship involves seeking to imitate the one we are following - our Lord.
Romans 8:29, 1 Peter 2:21, 2 Corinthians 3:18

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- ▶ We will also seek and prefer others with similar interests - **2 Peter 1:1**
- ▶ Are we trying to be like Jesus?
1 Corinthians 11:1 (cf. Philippians 2:5, 1 Pet. 2:21, etc.)

We will abide in His word

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- ▶ Friends show due respect for one another. We will do what is necessary to maintain that relationship.
- ▶ **John 8:31**, *If you abide in My words...*
- ▶ **John 14:15**, *you will keep His commandments*, **Also 15:14.**
- ▶ **1 John 5:2-3** - based on our love.
- ▶ **James 2:23** - Abraham the friend of God

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- ▶ **Luke 6:46** - Do you call Him Lord?
- ▶ Our relationship with Him is based on following His instructions. **1 John 2:6**
- ▶ WHEN we abide in Him, He abides in us – **John 14:23**

We will not be ashamed of Him

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- ▶ A true friend is not ashamed to let others know about their friendship. Especially in troubling times - they will stand with them - **Proverbs 17:17**
- ▶ He will not betray or act in such a way as to cause their friend to be ashamed.
- ▶ We are not to be ashamed:
 - **Romans 1:16** - of the gospel
 - **2 Timothy 1:8** - His testimony or friends
 - **1 Peter 4:16** - suffering as a Christian
- ▶ ALL of these are related to our friendship with Jesus.

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- ▶ We should never be ashamed of our Friend.
- ▶ Sadly, many have been - **cf. John 12:42-43**
- ▶ IF we are ashamed of Him, He will be ashamed of us - **Mark 8:38**
- ▶ IF we are NOT ashamed of Him, He will not be ashamed of us. **Hebrews 2:11**, *For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren...*

We will tell others about Him

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- ▶ Friends let others know who their true friends are. They will promote their strengths and recommend them as needed.
- ▶ A part of not being ashamed means we openly declare Jesus.

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- ▶ Part of our faith is about sharing Him with others
 - **John 1:40-42** – Andrew found Peter
 - **Acts 8:4** – they took the word with them when scattered
 - Paul is our example - **1 Corinthians 2:2**
 - Even before Agrippa, his message was about Jesus - **Acts 26**
- ▶ IF we confess Him, He will confess us - **Matthew 10:32-33**

We will anticipate being with Him

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- ▶ When friends are apart, they miss each other. They look forward to being reunited. They communicate when they can.
- ▶ Are we looking forward to our Lord's return?
 - **Titus 2:11-13** – looking for the blessed hope
 - **Philippians 1:23** – Paul's greater desire
 - **Philippians 3:20-21** - Our citizenship is in heaven... we eagerly await

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- ▶ Are we anticipating His return?
Hebrews 9:28, *so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.*
- ▶ Jesus anticipates us being with Him as well
 - **cf. John 14:3, Revelation 22:12**, *And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.*

We will maintain our friendship

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- ▶ As noted, true friends are always there. We treasure our friendship and work to maintain it. Often this includes sacrifice, above personal wants and pursuits.
- ▶ Consider what Jesus has done for us!
John 15:13, Romans 5:8, etc.
- ▶ What are we willing to do to maintain our friendship with Him? **Acts 21:13, Revelation 2:10, Hebrews 10:38.**
1 Timothy 6:20 - guard what was committed to your trust...

Concluding thoughts

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- ▶ We sometimes sing about our friendship with Jesus.
- ▶ In spiritual matters you will not find a greater friend.
- ▶ He WANTS to be your friend.
- ▶ He stands at the door and knocks -
Revelation 3:20. Will you let Him in?

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