18-11-12

**HIGHEST FORM OF RELATIONSHIP**

**Text: John 15:12-15**

* John 15:12 "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.
* John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.
* John 15:14 "You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.
* John 15:15 "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

**INTRO:**

* Our old approach in church is having converts without making friends, if this still works, then it’s fine.
* If it is no longer working, we might change our approach, make friends and have converts.
* There’s nothing wrong if we call each other brother or sister but your brother or sister could not be your friend.
* In fact Jesus said His brothers and sisters are those who do the will of His Father.
* Mat 12:50 "For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.“
* Whereas to be a friend, the Bible didn’t say any requirement for you to become a friend to anybody.

**AIM:**

* FOR US TO LOVE EACH OTHER AS A FRIEND

**I. JESUS COMMAND TO LOVE EACH OTHER-V 12**

* As He loved us
* He set the standards on how to love each other
* Not on the world’s standards
* He loves us as a friend

**II. LOVE FOR A FRIEND IS THE HIGHEST FORM OF LOVE & RELATIONSHIP-V 13**

* He laid His life and died for us as His friends
* Greater love has no one than this -Greatest
* Unless we love somebody as a friend, we would not be willing to die for them.
* Mat 26:50 Jesus replied, "Friend, do what you came for.“ Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested Him.
* Mat 26:24 The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.“
* Luke 22:3 Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve.
* John 12:6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.
* Pro 17:17 A friend loves at all times,
* That means when they’re good or bad and evil, when they’re rich or poor, when they’re young or old, when they look pretty or ugly, etc.
* Proverbs 19:4 Wealth makes many friends, But the poor is separated from his friend.
* If a person can only love you for certain conditions or certain times, he is not your friend.
* Micah 7:5 Do not trust in a friend; Do not put your confidence in a companion; Guard the doors of your mouth from her who lies in your bosom.
* Jesus is our friend and He loves us at all times

**III. FRIENSHIP DNA-V 14**

* You are my friends if you do WHATEVER I COMMAND YOU
* Obedience is the test of love and friendship
* You love somebody if you could do anything and give everything.
* This does not mean we become friends of God by obeying Him but proves our friendship with Him.
* Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
* If we do not obey Him, we are not His friends but enemies
* James 4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
* When we chose our worldly friends over God, we become His enemies.
* 1Jo 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
* 1John 2:16 For all that [is] in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world.
* 1John 2:17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

**IV. MARKS OF TRUE FRIENDSHIP-V 15**

* Openness and transparency
* No longer I call you servants
* For a servant does not know what his master is doing
* But I have called you friends
* For all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.
* If Jesus tells us everything, do we tell Him everything?
* 1John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
* That means a person who is hiding something is not a real friend.
* Proverbs 27:5 Better is open rebuke than hidden love.
* Proverbs 27:6 Faithful [are] the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy [are] deceitful.
* A friend does not judge/condemn you but will also not consent you in sin.
* John 8:1-11
* And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.“
* Proverbs 17:9 He who covers a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates friends.
* The deeper the friendship, the more openness
* How much do we know each other?
* As brothers and sisters here in church, do we know each other?
* Do we talk to each other or just to few people most of the time if not all the time?
* Do the new members know you personally?
* If not, you don’t have a relationship with them.
* Your friendship is skin deep.
* Mat 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.
* Mat 7:22 "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'
* Mat 7:23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!‘
* 1Cor 8:3 But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him.

**V. QUOTES ABOUT FRIENDS**

* Never explain yourself. Your friends don’t need it and your enemies won’t believe it.
* Friendship isn't about whom you have known the longest... It's about who came, and never left your side...
* Friendship is like standing on wet cement. The longer you stay, the harder it's to leave, and you can never go without leaving your footprints behind.
* Friends are like a good bra, supportive, hard to find, and always close to your heart!

**CHALLENGE:**

* Are you a good friend?
* Do you love at all times?

**CONCLUSION:**

* Proverbs 17:17 A friend loves at all times.
* Pro 18:24 A man [who has] friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend [who] sticks closer than a brother.