



BOOK *of* JOHN

# ***FRIENDS OF THE VINE***

## ***JOHN 15:12-17***

- ***Last time:*** As branches, we abide, make our home with Him and He with us; we live in and for Him.
- ***As His friends,*** we have the privilege of knowing His Word, Will, and Ways; and with that knowledge comes the responsibility of obeying. As His friends, we ***follow the Lord's house rules!***
- Real friendship is ***sacrificial*** and ***works hard*** for the sake of the friendship, and that is how we prove the worth of the friendship—the effort we put into it.

## ***HOW CAN YOU KNOW A TRUE FRIEND?***

- They are unlike Judas in every way. **Psalm 41:9**
- As humans, real friends may fail at times, but they always come back and make it right.
  - As God, Jesus never fails us as our friend.
- Real friends know each other's deepest secrets.
  - Like a friend at court, the inner circle of the king, the best man at your wedding
- They are ready to serve, like Abraham in **Gen. 18.**

# ***REAL FRIENDS DO NOT FIGHT FOR POSITION***

## **WE ARE WILLING TO DIE, TO LOVE, AND SERVE**

- The proof of our love is not in our feelings, but in our actions, even to the extent of laying down our lives for the Lord Jesus and for one another. **1 John 3:16**
- Jesus laid down His life for both His friends and His enemies! **Rom. 5:8-10**
- Real Christian love is an act of the will; it means treating others the way God treats us.

# ***YOU CANNOT LOVE GOD AND THE WORLD!***

- If we have friendship with the world, we then experience enmity with God. **James 4:1-4**
- Lot in Sodom was not called God's friend, even though Lot was saved. **2 Peter 2:7**
- Who you serve is who you really love!
- His friends learn to know God better and "***get in on***" the King's secrets. Are you close enough to hear them (**2 Sam. 23:15-17**)? Or do you only hear the world?

## ***WE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE FRUITFUL FRIENDS***

- As branches, we *share His life and bear fruit*; and as friends, *we share His love and bear fruit*.
- As branches, we are pruned by the Father; as friends, we are instructed by the Son, and His Word controls our lives so that we can bear much fruit!
- The evidence of true sonship, discipleship (**John 15:8**), and friendship (**John 15:15**) is *fruit*. “By their fruits you shall know them.” **Matt. 7:20**

## ***TRUE FRIENDS GET TO TALK TO THE KING***

- The friends of the King speak to their sovereign and share their burdens and needs with Him personally.
- Friends remain humble, ***for He chose us and we did not choose Him***; *friendship is by grace.*
- The King has given us tasks to do; and if we love Him, *we will obey His commands.*

***The friends of the King must not only love Him,  
but also one another.***

## ***ABIDING AND OBEYING***

- If we are not abiding as branches and obeying as friends, we will never be able to face the opposition of the world.
- If we do not love one another, how can we ever hope to love lost men and women in the world?

***In abiding obedience we can do anything  
that He commands us to do!***