



**Wisdom for Establishing the
Ultimate Relationship
John 15:12-17**

Sermon Series: Walking Wisely

John 15:12-15 (NIV)

- 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.



John 15:15-17 (NIV)

- 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. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.



I. Three Phases of Our Relationship with God

- 1. ***We receive Jesus as Savior***
- John 3:3 (NIV), *Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”*



3 Phases of Our Relationship with God (cont'd)

- **2. *We serve Jesus as our Lord.***
- Our salvation occurs in a matter of seconds. The next stage of our relationship with God lasts the remainder of our lifetime: We obey and serve Jesus as our Lord.



3 Phases of Our Relationship with God (cont'd)

- John 14:21 (NIV), *“Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”*
- John 14:23 (NIV), *“Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.”*



3 Phases of Our Relationship with God (cont'd)

- John 15:9-10 (NIV), *“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love.”*



3 Phases of Our Relationship with God (cont'd)

- Serving Jesus as Lord is all about obedience, submission of our will to His, being sensitive to His daily guidance, and being committed to fulfilling His will for our lives.



3 Phases of Our Relationship with God (cont'd)

- **3. *We Love Jesus as Our Friend***
- Consider the people Jesus called friend.
- *A stranger in need*
- Jesus said to this man, “*Friend, your sins are forgiven you*” (Lk. 5:20 NASB).



3 Phases of Our Relationship with God (cont'd)

- *Sinners seeking a savior*
- *“For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’³⁴ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’” (Lk 7:33-34 NIV)*



3 Phases of Our Relationship with God (cont'd)

- *Followers in the crowd*
- *“I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. ⁵ But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him” (Lk. 12:4-5).*



3 Phases of Our Relationship with God (cont'd)

- *A disciple who betrayed Him*
- In the Garden of Gethsemane, Judas approached Jesus to betray Him, and Jesus said as Judas kissed Him, *“Friend, why have you come?”* (Matt. 26:50).



3 Phases of Our Relationship with God (cont'd)

- *Your Level of Acceptance
Determines Your Level of
Relationship*
- The degree to which you intentionally and actively accept the relationship that God offers to you is the degree to which the Lord will reveal Himself to you and impart His wisdom to you.



II. The Distinctive Hallmarks of Friendship with Jesus

- 1. ***Sacrificial Love***
- *“You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:*



Hallmarks of Friendship with Jesus (cont'd)

- *While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!" (Rom 5:6-8, 10 NIV)*



Hallmarks of Friendship with Jesus (cont'd)

- **2. *An ongoing initiative***
- Jesus takes the initiative in establishing a friendship with you. He said to His disciples, *“You did not choose Me, but I chose you”* (John 15:16).



Hallmarks of Friendship with Jesus (cont'd)

- *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.”*
(Eph 2:8-9)



Hallmarks of Friendship with Jesus (cont'd)

- **3. *Revolutionary and Positive Change in Us***
- *“If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love.” (John 15:10 NIV)*



Hallmarks of Friendship with Jesus (cont'd)

- *“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you... This is my command: Love each other.”* (John 15:12, 17 NIV)



Hallmarks of Friendship with Jesus (cont'd)

- 4. ***Abiding Presence***
- Jesus never leaves us or forsakes us (Heb 13:5). He is with us always. In His own words, Jesus said, *“Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age”* (Matt 28:20).



Our Friend of Friends

- Who is your very best friend?
- The questions we must ask ourselves are these:
- Am I wisely pursuing a friendship with Jesus?
- What kind of friend am I to Him?



Invitation

