

JOHN 15:9-27 Study (NLT) " FRIENDS" June 6 •2010 Vineyard Church • Great Falls • Montana.

• **MAIN POINT:** In this world there are the friends of God and the enemies of God. Jesus encourages his friends to stay close to Him and to tell others about Him. He warns them that the enemies of God will persecute them because they belong to him and tell the world about him.

• **15:9-11** LOVE and JOY from GOD in a dangerous world: Jesus encourages us to remain close to Him. He reminds us that he _____ us just as much as the _____ loves him. The safe place to dwell in this world that would steal our souls is in his _____. One of the keys to keeping our selves in an experience of his loving presence is to _____ the laws underlying the creation which reflect the Father's loving care for the creation. Jesus says He does. The result of being in harmony with the Father and his ways is being filled with overflowing _____.

15:9 REMAIN : *MENU* in the Greek. To stay or remain where one is. John uses it to speak of the intimate family-like relationship of the Father and the Son, and then of the Father and the Son with believing Christians. The abiding is in the wonderful affection of the Father

• **15:12-17** FRIENDS of GOD : The best kind of relationship is friendship. Friends like each other, help each other, prefer each other, seek each others company, and promote the dreams of their friends. The cost of friendship is self sacrificing _____ -- where people lay down their _____ -- what they want and value, if need be, for the sake of their friend. Jesus exhorts us to love _____ other that way. That is the way _____ loves. We are his _____ if we _____ his example and exhortation to love like he does. We obey God's commands to love as _____ who have his heart ---not as _____ who are required to obey. Friends _____ in each other. Jesus _____ in us. He tells us _____ the _____ has told him. It brings us great joy by knowing that Jesus _____ us to be his friends before we did anything to earn his affection. He has always liked us the way we are. He chose us to work in the Father's vineyard together and produce _____ that will last. The fruit that lasts into eternity are people saved. The Father will _____ us _____ we _____ for in Jesus _____. One of the best ways Christians _____ others having prayers for them answered.

15:14 FRIENDS : One of the Greek words for love. PHILOS "to have affection for-beloved-dear." Friendship is perhaps the highest result of love. It is an inward, enduring personal communion and delightful friendship where affection is mutual, trust is enjoyed, personal secrets are shared and there is a confidence that the other person is there for them. The effect of this happy and lasting friendship is joy. God's self sacrificing love is intended to create friendship. The greatest men of the Bible were called " friends of God." Moses, David and now the ordinary Christian. The great hope of human kind is that Jesus is the " friend of the worst sort of sinners." Matthew 11:19

LIFE : The word for life here is the Greek word *PSYCHE* which means the life of the soul/personality. Jesus is telling us that "love in action" means we give up time, money, interests and personal pleasures to help, and edify and encourage others.

CHOOSE: Being full of our selves -puffed up-self importance comes naturally to us. There is a tendency to think that we chose God -we choose to be saved. Actually we were objects of God's wrath. *Ephesians 2:1* And our hearts were so hardened that we would never choose God. We can't say "Jesus is Lord" in order to be saved without the help of the Holy Spirit *I Corinthians 12:3* It is because of God's mercy we come. We don't accept Him-He accepts us first.

• **15:18-22** HATED by the HATERS of GOD. The world of men and women with the same heart as the Evil One is one of self exaltation - pride and lusts - of exploitation - de-humanizing of people to justify the misery they cause - of stealing, killing, and destroying people and earth. The sons and daughters of the Father operating in self sacrificing love run smack into these people. They hinder their rapacity and sometimes stir their conscience. So the world _____ them as they hated Jesus. The world would _____ them if they _____ to the world and joined in their lifestyle. But Jesus' friends have been _____ by Jesus to come _____ of the world. Christians are identified with Christ their master. So if they _____ him they will persecute us. On the other hand, Jesus said if they _____ to him they will _____ to us. The people of the world will _____ us be cause we belong to Jesus.

15:18 WORLD: *KOSMOS* in the Greek referring to this planet, the home of mankind, and all living creatures. It is also the place whose caretakers, the human race, have rebelled and separated themselves and their world from their Creator. Along with the Devil people have joined themselves in a common enmity toward God. It is a contaminated place where every good thing of the good earth is twisted and tainted and tends to evil. World becomes a negative word in the New Testament. It does not apply to the good earth.

15:18 HATED : There are two kingdoms : The kingdom of darkness (of the devil, the sinful nature, and world system organized by them) and the Kingdom of God. The Father has delivered us from the kingdom of darkness. This separates us from that world. " For God has rescued us from the one who rules in the kingdom of darkness, and he has brought us into the Kingdom of his dear Son. God has purchased our freedom with his blood and has forgiven all our sins." *Colossians 1:13-14* The reality is power encounters between the two kingdoms ...between good and evil, Christ and the devil. We cannot escape conflict if we are faithful. "Everyone who lives

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a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution." Timothy 3:12

• **15:21-25** GUILTY God rejecters are _____ because the Son of God came and _____ to them and offered them all the Father's treasures if they would repent-- and they rejected it. So now they have no _____ for their sins. Sadly those who hate Jesus are also hating his _____, also their God and Father before whom they will have to give account for their lives someday. Jesus says," *If I hadn't done such miraculous _____ among them that _____ else could do, they would not be counted _____.* But as it is, they _____ all I did and yet _____ both of us-- _____ and my _____. This has fulfilled what the Scriptures said, 'They hated me without _____'" Jesus comments in John 3:9-20 *"The light from heaven has come into the world, but they loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. They hate the light because they want to sin in the darkness. They stay away from the light for fear their sins will be exposed and they will be punished."*

• **15:26-27** HOLY SPIRIT COME . Jesus has not abandoned his friends. He has sent us the _____, the Spirit of _____. He will reveal to us what life is really all about and remind us of Jesus . He does this so that we are enabled and encouraged to tell about Jesus who is the only hope for every person.

What Does This Scripture Say To You? _____

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