

Notes on Message John 15:9-27

FRIENDS of God

• John 15:13-16 *"And here is how to measure it—the greatest love is shown when people lay down their lives for their friends. You are my friends if you obey me. I no longer call you servants, because a master doesn't confide in his servants. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. You didn't choose me. I chose you."*

Jesus said, "Now you are my friends."

- The greatest people of the Bible were called "friends of God." Abraham, Moses, David and now the ordinary Christian.
- The Greek words for love used here is PHILOS, which means "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 in Christ is intended to create friendship.

The greatest love is seen when people lay down their lives for their friends.

The living hope of human kind is that Jesus is a . . .
"friend of the worst sort of sinners."

Matthew 11:19

*"When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. So now, we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God—all because of what our Lord Jesus Christ has done for us in making us **friends of God.**"*

Romans 5:6-11

*"Once you were so far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions, yet now he has **brought you back as his friends.** He has done this through his death on the cross in his own human body. As a result, he has brought you into the very presence of God."* Colossians

1:21-22

Chosen to be His friends.

"You didn't choose me. I chose you."