

WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS
Sermon Outline, John 15:12-17
Sermon Series: The Gospel of John
Sunday, November 2, 2025
Pastor Kelly Stanley

- + Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law" (NASB).
- + John 15:4-5, "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing" (NASB).

Breakdown of John 15

- John 15:1-11 is about _____.
 - John 15:12-17 is about _____.
 - John 15:18-27 is about being _____.
- + John 13:1, "Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end" (NASB).
 - + John 15:12-17, "This is my command: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³The greatest love a person can show is to die for his friends. ¹⁴You are My friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know what his master is doing. But I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I heard from My Father. ¹⁶You did not choose Me; I chose you. And I gave you this work: to go and produce fruit, fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you anything you ask for in My name. ¹⁷This is My command: Love each other" (TPT).
 - + Romans 5:7-8, "Very few people will die to save the life of someone else, even if it is for a good person. Someone might be willing to die for an especially good person. ⁸But Christ died for us while we were still sinners, and by this God showed how much He loves us" (ETR).

What Blessings Come From Abiding In Christ The Vine?

1. We have a mutual _____ with Christ and with each other (John 15:14-15).

- + John 15:12, "This is my command: Love each other as I have loved you" (TPT).
- + 1 John 4:20-21, "If someone says, 'I love God,' but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? ²¹And He has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their fellow believers" ((NLT)).
 - The word "love" in John 15:12 is the verb [ἀγαπάω, agapao]. This means this love is not an _____ we feel, but a _____ of the will we make. This makes love a decision in the _____ not in our our _____. The way we _____ determines the way we _____ and the way we feel determines the way we _____.

2. The Holy Spirit _____ the fruit of love in us (Gal. 5:22-23).

Because We Are Called, Chosen & Commissioned By Jesus, This Means . . .

1. We are His most _____ and _____ friends (John 15:15).

- + Psalms 25:14, "The secret of the Lord is for those who fear and worship Him, and He will cause them to understand the meaning of His covenant" (PAR).
- + Psalms 103:7, "He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the sons of Israel" (NASB).

2. We are to be His personal _____ in this world (John 15:16).

- I call this the "spiritual _____ clause of John 15 by Jesus.
- In John 15:16, the word translated as "appointed" is the Greek New Testament word [τίθημι, tithemi] and it means "appointed for special service" or "to send for a special reason."

+ Matthew 28:19-20a, 'Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I commanded you" (NASB).

3. We are to be Jesus' personal _____ (John 15:16).

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Next Steps Devotional Guide, John 15:12-17
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1. Read Romans 5:7-8 in your sermon notes or Bible. When did the Lord start loving you and attempting to woo you to Himself so He might save you? What does this mean to you and why?
2. What does it mean to you that you are a mutual friend of Jesus and how does this change and impact your life on a daily basis?
3. Do you find the church, our church, loving, accepting? Do you believe our church notices when people are in pain and takes the initiative to respond to help them? Why or why not?
4. Jesus said that if we do not love one another unconditionally we are not His disciples. What does this mean to you and why?
5. We saw that in John 15:12, love is not an emotion, but a choice. It is an act of the will to love someone when you do not feel it. Love is not determined by our moods, but by a choice in our mind. Who do you have to do that with consistently and what have been the results?
6. When we abide in Christ the Holy Spirit produces His fruit in us. Read Galatians 5:22-23 in your sermon notes or Bible. Which fruit is not being produced in your life and why?
7. Knowing that Jesus says we are His most personal and intimate friends, how personal and intimate is your relationship with your friend, Jesus?
8. Jesus said that we are His personal representatives in this world. I called this the "spiritual power of attorney" clause of John 15. What does this mean to you and why?
9. Read Matthew 28:19-20. Part of the fruit we are to bear is making disciples. It proves we are His children. It proves we are abiding in Jesus. Who are you currently mentoring to make a disciple of Jesus?
10. Look up the lyrics to the hymn, What A Friend We Have In Jesus. What kind of friend does this hymn say He is and why?