



ALL SAINTS

PREBYTERIAN

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

FOR ALL SAINTS SMALL GROUPS

“Friendship Love” | Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt | May 6, 2018

1 Samuel 18:1-53

As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.² And Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father's house.³ Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul.⁴ And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt.⁵ And David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him, so that Saul set him over the men of war. And this was good in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

1 John 5: 1-6

But Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.⁴ For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?⁶ This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

John 15: 9-17

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.¹² “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you.¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.¹⁷ These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

Intro Question

In John 15, Jesus describes the root of his love. As the Father loves Jesus, so has Jesus loved us. He demonstrates this by laying His life down for us. Further, Jesus commands us to love one another and also lay down our life for one another. How do we love one another? How do we lay our lives down for another? Jesus' answer is friendship. People are humanized through friendship. Nothing as dehumanizing as loneliness. Conversely, nothing more life giving and humanizing than having a genuine friendship. Let's examine two questions: 1) Why is friendship important? and 2) How is friendship done well?

Background

Understanding friendship love is inherent for what it means for God to be God. Verse 9 states, “as the Father has loved me, so also I have loved you”. The love between Jesus and the Father is described as a person, the third person of the Trinity - the Holy Spirit. Jesus speaks about this love with the Father, expanded out **to** us and then further out **through** us. The Holy Spirit is the bond of love between Father and Son and extends out through Christ in us in order to animate our relationships. We must understand the Trinity to apply what Jesus commands in verse 12 to our own lives. The Holy Spirit enables us to have the capacity to engage in love as it relates to friendship.

Beautiful relationships move us. We are created in God's image and we were created to share in relationship with Him and others. Never a time in eternity that God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit were not in an unbreakable friendship.

How do we engage in friendship like this? Jesus tells us two truths: receive all from a friend (v.13) and reveal all to a friend (v.15). Jesus models this beautifully.

Receive all Greater love lays down life for a friend. Jesus' greatest act of love is His death on cross. He goes to the cross to die to **receive** everything from us that we ourselves cannot bear. **Read Isaiah 53.** “He was despised and rejected by men...borne our griefs...carried our sorrows, wounded for our transgressions ...with his wounds we are healed”. This is ultimate friendship.

Reveal all Jesus no longer calls us servants. IF we obey commandments, Jesus calls us friends. Everything from the Father is **revealed** by Jesus and made known, including everything He hopes for. God has told us everything we need to know about Himself in scriptures and in the flesh.

Discuss:

1. Is the ministry of the Holy Spirit a difficult concept? Do you feel the presence of the Holy Spirit at work in love and friendships? How does the Holy Spirit embodied in you aid in the capacity to love both easy and difficult people?
2. How do you treat your friendships with respect to receiving and revealing? How do you balance the two? Do you first turn to the Lord to reveal your sin/burdens? Practice with the Psalms to go to the Father first and friends second. Discuss.
3. Is friendship the end goal of your relationships? Should it be? How do you balance the depth of your relationships and be faithful to the call to love all?
4. Do your friendships heighten your joy in the Lord? Expose sin in your life? Encourage obedience to God?

Conclusion/Application

Heavenly Father, teach us what it means for You to be a friend to us first. Enable us to live this truth by the power of the Holy Spirit. Reveal to us how we can accomplish the friendship you have called us toward others in our lives. May we be a friend to others as Christ has done for us. Amen.

By: Blake Thompson

