



Godly Friendship John 15:12-15

John 15 includes Jesus' own invitation of friendship to us. In our sermon, we considered how if we are to grow in godly friendship with others, we must first focus on the friendship God is offering to us.

Questions to Ponder:

1. Read John 15:1-15. How does the metaphor of the vine and branches (15:1-11) impact the meaning of our text, vv12-15? Specifically focus on vv 9-11.
2. Verse 12 is Jesus' commandment to us. Can you recall other 'commands' that Jesus has given elsewhere? How do those other commands relate to Jesus' command here 'to love one another as I have loved you.'?
3. Verse 13 is the epitome of love according to Jesus. Very few folks will be positioned to literally lay down their life for their friend. Therefore, what might be at the heart of this teaching which can be practiced in our lives?
4. Verse 14 a conditional statement for what Jesus constitutes friendship with him to be. What, within this context, might Jesus be talking about? Could the 'command' of v14 be in relation to commands Jesus gives elsewhere? What might those be?
5. Reflect on verse 15. Commentator William Barclay notes, "He calls them friends. Now that is something that would be even greater to those who heard it for the

first time than it is to us. The title *slave/servant* was no title of shame; it was indeed a title of the highest honour. Moses was the *slave/servant* of God (Deutoronmy 34:5); so was Joshua (Joshua 24:29); as was David (Psalm 89:20). It is a title Paul counted an honor to use (James 1:1). The greatest men in the past had been proud to be called the *slave/servant* of God. And Jesus says: 'I have something greater for you yet; you are no longer a *slave/servant*: you are my *friends*.'" How do you view your relationship with God? What might the differences practically look like if we prioritize the relationship of friend to God over servant of God?

