“Greater Love Has No One Than This” **John 15:12-17**

Sunday May 28, 2023 Pastor Timothy Atkins

## INTRODUCTION READ John 15:1-27

Jesus teaches us that being His disciple means loving others because He has loved us in this relationship with Him Jesus Entrusting Himself to His Friends

 Relationship with Jesus 15:12-17 Relationship with the world 15:18-25

 Relationship with Jesus and Relationship with His disciples

1. Present Love for One Another Because They Are Loved by Jesus

 Both the Mandate and Model of Love 15:12-13

1. His Present Commandment Is Love One Another 15:12

“This is My commandment, that you love one another . . .”

 repetition, importance, truth “. . . just as I have loved you.”

 present tense verb PERSONALLY

READ I John 3:16 John 14:15; 15:10 not conditional or reciprocal

1. His Present Commitment Is Love For Each One of Them 15:13

“Greater love has no one than this . . .” Present Active Indicative

 “. . . that one lay down his life for his friends.”

* + - * “no greater proof of love than the sacrifice of one’s life” SACRIFICIALLY
* We all must grow in this degree of our love—self sacrificing for others
1. Present Relationship for Each One of Them As Friends of Jesus

 Both the Meaning and Message of Friendship 15:14-15

1. His Present Statement That Who Are His Friends 15:14

“You are My friends if you do what I command you.” PAI

“literally “you yourselves My friends are . . . I Myself . . .”

reality of obedience by those in this relationship

 because of the reality of His sacrifice for them

1. His Personal Statement About What Being Friends Mean 15:15

“No longer do I call you slaves . . . but I have called you friends . . .”

 “for all things that I have heard . . . I have made known to you.”

“more informed, more privileged, more understanding”

1. Present Plan for Those Who Are His Disciples 15:16-17

 Both the Mission and Ministry of Discipleship

1. His Personal Appointment of Those Who Are His 15:16a

“You did not choose Me but I chose you and appointed you . . .”

not you yourselves Me chose BUT I Myself---"it is not about you but about Me”

 John 6:70; 13:18; 15:19

1. His Personal Assignment for Those Who Are His 15:16b-17

 that [1] you would go and [2] bear fruit,

 and [3] *that* your fruit would remain,

 so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

“This I command you, that you love one another.” memorize this

summary words by Jesus for His disciples “that you keep loving”

CONCLUSION The Loving Relationship . . .

* Relationship with Jesus shown in our relationship with His disciples
* These words of Jesus decide & mark How I am relating to others
* These words of Jesus shape & form How We are relating to one another
* Sacrificing of selfishness, self-centeredness, and shallowness in love