

The Qualities of an Abiding Community! – Week II

John 15:12-17

Q. What is a friend to you?

In **John 15** we see the **value of friends** within an abiding community.

Jesus speaks, John 15:12 *“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.”*

Q. **Have** you been in a place in your life when you have said to yourself that I don't need a close personal friend or friends?

Notes:

From the abiding in the vine which is Jesus, comes **four characteristics** of this love...

Last week we looked at the **first** in verse 13.

John 15:13, *“Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”*

THE WILLINGNESS TO SACRIFICE FOR OTHERS!

*When you have a close relationship with someone
there is no such thing as a sacrifice!*

The **Second** characteristic is found in...

John 15:14, "You are my friends **if you do what I command you.**"

BEING DEVOTED IN P _____ JESUS A ____!

Notes:

Third characteristic,

John 15:15, "No longer do I call you servants (NAS- slaves), for the servant (slaves) 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.**

THE SHARING OF P _____ INFORMATION

Notes:

The fourth characteristic

John 15:16, "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.**

THE SHARED DESIRE FOR OTHERS S _____.

Notes:

John 15:17, "**These things I command you, so that you will love one another.**"

TAKE AWAY

The purpose of friendships...

To help each one in the family of God reach his/her fullest fulfillment.