



Let's Talk It Over

Reflecting on John 15:1-17

“A Friend Indeed”
John 15:12-17
Sunday, September 24, 2017

I. A Deeper Look at the Text

Christ discusses the love and _____
 believers should have with one another.

A. A command is issued. (vs. 12, 17)

1. The subject matter – The verb in v. 12 is in the present tense. It indicates ongoing action: “Keep on loving _____.”
2. The contrast – Up until this time, Jesus has taught us to love our neighbors _____ . (Luke 10:27)

B. The qualities explained

1. Disregarding the personal _____ (v. 13)
2. Developing the _____ (v. 14)
3. Dialoguing around the _____ (v. 15)
4. _____ erased - v. 16

II. A Summary of Today's Truths

Before you leave today, fix two truths in your mind. (from Swindoll)

- A sheltering tree bears the fruit of security, _____, care, and _____.
- A sheltering tree has roots that _____.

Q1. How do v9 and v12 tie together? How is love the essential dynamic of the Christian life?

Q2. The command to love one's neighbor was not new (Lev 19:18; Mk 12:28ff); how is this command “new” then? [Think of how we are to love our neighbor in Lev 19:18//Mk 12:28ff versus how we are to love others in Jn 15:12.]

Q3. What does it mean in v13 to “lay down one's life for one's friend”? [Oswald Chambers makes a distinction between dying for your friend (a one-time act) to “laying down” your life (an on-going action). How do you respond to that distinction?]

Q4. Why does Jesus link friendship with obedience in v14? Why can't I be Jesus' friend and do whatever I want to do?

Q5. How can I know that I love God? (Read 2 John verse 6; Jn 14:15,21)

Q6. How do I know I have been made a disciple? (Read Mt 28:20 - does it say when I have learned the commands of Christ, or something else?)

Q7. Who did the choosing in v16? (Read also Eph 1:4.)

Q8. Respond to this Barclay Quote: “It was not we who chose God, but God, in His grace, approaches us with a call and an offer made out of His love.”

Q9. Jesus uses the phrase “in My name” seven times in Jn 14:1-16:33 (14:13-14,26; 15:16; 16:23-24,26). What does it mean to ask “in His name”? Is this a magic formula to get what we want? (Re-read Jn 15:7 for some ideas.)

Q10. Read the hilarious story in Acts 19:13-16. How does the “name of Jesus” impact this story? How does that help you understand “in My name” here in John?

Sonrise offers a variety of small groups that meet during the week in various members homes. We encourage you to join others in a discussion of this morning's message. See Pastor Phil at the south exit.

Week in the Word

Before each day's study be sure to talk to the Author; ask Him to give you insight to His Word. Read the passage from several different versions. Pray Psalm 119:18 & 27 as you begin daily.

Preparing for Sunday 10/1/17 Studying John 15:18-16:4

Day 1: Read John 15:18-16:4.

Q1. Since John 19:9-17 was about love, why does Jesus now talk about hate?

Q2. What does Jesus mean by “the world”? Why would the world hate Jesus’ disciples? (Read 1 John 2:15-16 for ideas.)

Day 2: Read John 15:18-16:4 in a different translation.

Q3. Why should Christians expect persecution? (Read also 2 Tim 3:12; compare 1 Pt 1:5-7; Jas 1:12.)

Q4. ♡ When have you found that speaking truth and showing love can lead to hostility from others? How do you explain that?

Day 3: Read John 15:18-16:4 in a different translation.

Q5. What two titles is the Holy Spirit referred to in v26?

Q6. How does the Holy Spirit “help” us?
1. [Jn 16:13; 14:26] 2. [Rom 8:26] 3.[Acts 8:29; 11:11,12; 16:6,7] 4.[Mt 10:18-20; Acts 4:8; 6:10] 5. other ways???

Day 4: Read John 15:18-16:4 in a different translation.

Q7. Why does Jesus teach the things recorded in John 16:1-4?

Q8. What kind of persecution does Jesus predict for His disciples? Do these also apply to us in the 21st century?

Day 5: Read John 15:18-16:4 in a different translation.

Q9. What reason does Jesus give for the coming persecution? (Read again 1 Jn 2:15-17 for additional ideas.)

Q10. Why on His final night with His disciples does Jesus tell them the contents of 15:18-16:4? What portions do we need to hear this week?