

Disciples' Relation to Each Other (John 15: 12-17)

Scripture Text

12. "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.
13. Greater love has no one than this, that one 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 slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things 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 would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.
17. This I command you, that you love one another. (John 15:12-17)

Outline

- I. Love One Another (vv.12-13)
- II. Obedient Friends of Jesus (vv.14-15)
- III. Chosen and Appointed By Jesus to Bear Fruit In Love (vv.16-17)

Worksheet

- I. Love One Another (vv.12-13)
 - a. "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. (v.12)
 - i. Jesus gives a _____ not a suggestion. This means that it is _____ optional or up for debate!
 - ii. Jesus' personal commandment to His disciples, "My commandment", is to "_____ one another." What kind of love did He expect the disciples to show to one another? What kind of love does He expect all Christians to show to one another? [discussion] _____

 - iii. "you love": agapaō; ä-gä-pä'-ō - of persons: to welcome, to entertain, to be fond of, to love dearly

iv. If there was any confusion as to what extent the disciples should show love to one another, Jesus clears up any that they may have had or any that we may have. What does this kind of love look like in practice?

[discussion] _____

v. Jesus further explains what this kind of love looks like by using Himself as the _____ or pattern to follow in this regard. What are some examples of love that Jesus showed during His time with the disciples as He ministered to the needs of all?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

b. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. (v.13)

i. Jesus not only declares to the disciples the ultimate way of express this kind of love, but He also displays this kind of love on the cross for them and "whosoever should believe in Him"! (John 3:16)

ii. Was Jesus saying that the only way to show this love to one another was to literally die for each other? [discussion] _____

iii. In declaring this ultimate way of showing love to one another and later demonstrating it to them on the cross, what was Jesus showing about the love of God the Father and His own personal love towards His disciples and all the chosen of God? [discussion] _____

iv. What does "lay down his life" mean? _____

II. Obedient Friends of Jesus (vv.14-15)

a. You are My friends if you do what I command you. (v.14)

i. What does being a friend of Jesus and God the Father require?

ii. By extension, Jesus is saying that those who do what He commands _____ His friends as a matter of fact. Once again, He is saying this in much the same way as He did in verse 10.

iii. In a very practical sense how can we tell if we are a friend of Jesus? How can we tell if another person is a friend of Jesus?

iv. Bearing fruit and being obedient are tied together in verses 7-10 of this chapter. This is tied to the obedience of _____ to the Father and the obedience of the _____ to Jesus.

1. You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their fruits.

(Matthew 7:16-20 NASB)

2. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.

(Galatians 5:22-26 NASB)

3. having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

(Philippians 1:11 NASB)

b. No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. (v.15)

i. Jesus, in this verse highlights a change that has occurred in His relationship with the disciples. Jesus says that He no longer calls them (the disciples) slaves or _____, but instead He now calls them friends. What is the reason for this transition or change in their relationship? *[discussion]* _____

ii. Jesus has made known to His disciples _____ things that He has heard from His Father. What does this say about the work and words of Jesus as it pertains to His earthly ministry? *[discussion]*

III. Chosen and Appointed By Jesus to Bear Fruit In Love (vv.16-17)

a. You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you. (v.16)

i. Jesus dispels another potential misunderstanding that not only the disciples may have had, but one that some Christians today may also have in regard to the notion of "choosing Christ" and what that really entails. What can be said about this concept as it relates to choosing Christ? *[discussion]* _____

ii. Jesus let the disciples know that they were not only _____ by Him, but also _____ by Him that they would _____ and _____.

1. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. (Ephesians 2:10 NASB)

2. But you are A chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; (1 Peter 2:9 NASB)

3. seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. (2 Peter 1:3 NASB)

4. who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, (2 Timothy 1:9 NASB)

5. Jesus answered them, "Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?" (John 6:70 NASB)

iii. Jesus not only wanted the disciples to go and bear fruit, but He also wanted their fruit to _____. What did Jesus mean by this?

b. This I command you, that you love one another. (v.17)

i. Jesus one again brings home the most important part of this portion of scripture, namely that they [the disciples] should _____ one another.

ii. Also, not to be missed, but rather emphasized instead, Christians are _____ by Jesus to love one another!

