

A Friend of God

Friend Day 2019

John 15:9-17

Anthony Grove Baptist Church

Dr. Dennis E. Bean

September 7th & 8th, 2019



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James 2:23

²³ and the Scripture was fulfilled that says,
“Abraham believed God, and it was counted
to him as righteousness”—and he was
called a friend of God.-- (ESV)

John 15:9–17

⁹ “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

14 You are my friends if you do what I command.

15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. 17 This is my command: Love each other.-- (NIV)

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Introduction:

- Everyone Needs To Be **Loved** !
- **Healthy** People Have Meaningful Ties.
- **Hurting** People Often Lack Friends.

1. The Priority of Love.

John 15:99 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.-- (NIV84)

A. The Church Is Built On This Foundation.

John 15:17 17 This is my command: Love each other.--

John 13:35 35 By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

B. What Is A True Friend ?

Proverbs 27:6 6 Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

Proverbs 17:17 17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Proverbs 18:22 A fool finds no pleasure in understanding but delights in airing his own opinions.

C. A True Friend Possesses Availability.

**2 Timothy 4:16 16 At my first defense,
no one came to my support, but
everyone deserted me. May it not be
held against them.**

D. A True Friend Possesses Dependability.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Romans 12:10 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

**Galatians 5:13 13 You, my
brothers, were called to be free.
But do not use your freedom to
indulge the sinful nature; rather,
serve one another in love.**

2. The Problem of Not Always Loving.

1 John 3:18 18 Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

A. Our Best Intentions Often Fall Short.

**John 15:12 12 My command is
this: Love each other as I have
loved you.**

1. Shortcomings Due to **Distraction** .

2. Shortcomings Due to **Selfishness** .

3. Shortcomings Due to **Hurt Feelings** .

B. Jesus **Instruction** **Points**
the Way.

John 15:15 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

3. The Promise of His Love.

Jeremiah 31:3 3The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.--
(NIV)

A. He Promises His Presence.

Hebrews 13:5 5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

B. He Promises His Rest.

Matthew 11:28 28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

C. He Promises His Care.

**1 Peter 5:7 Casting all your care
upon him; for he careth for you.--
(KJV)**

D. He Promises His Prayers .

Romans 8:34 34 Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

E. The Cost of His Love.

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

Isaiah 53:2 2 He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

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