

“Experiencing Christ’s Love, Joy, and Friendship”

John 15:9-17

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A. Blessings of being connected to Christ:

1. Experience His love. (John 15:9-10)

2. Experience His joy. (John 15:11; John 17:13)

“Jesus does not call Christians to a dull existence of being hated by the world, obeying commands, and waiting to get to heaven. Instead, he offers us fullness of joy! Nothing else in all the world can bring the joy that we find in serving, abiding in, and obeying Christ. Jesus had promised, ‘I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full’ (10:10 NIV).”

Life Application Bible Commentary: John, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois, 1993, p. 312.

“Jesus came into the world with *good* news, not bad news. He does not call us to a willpower religion that feels only duty and no delight. He calls us to himself and to his Father. Therefore, he calls us to joy. Of course, it is not joy in things. Jesus is not preaching a health, wealth, and prosperity gospel—one of America’s most lamentable exports to the world. It is joy in *God* and in his *Son*.”

John Piper, *What Jesus Demands from the World*, Crossway Books, Wheaton, Illinois, 2006, p. 85.

3. Experience His friendship. (John 15:14-15)

“The idea of being a friend of God also has a background. Abraham was the *friend* of God (Isaiah 41:8)...Wisdom is said to make people the friends of God. But this phrase is lit up by a custom practiced at the courts both of the Roman emperors and of kings in the middle east. At these courts, there was a very select group called *the friends of the king*, or *the friends of the emperor*. At all times, they had access to the king; they even had the right to come to his bedchamber at the beginning of the day. He talked to them before he talked to his generals, his rulers and his statesmen. The friends of the king were those who had the closest and the most intimate connection with him. William Barclay, *The Gospel of John Volume Two*, Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville, Kentucky, 2001, p. 207-208.

B. The path to experiencing Christ’s love, joy, and friendship is found in obedience to God’s commands, specifically loving others. (John 15:10, 12, 14, and 17)

“The joy of Jesus was His absolute self-surrender and self-sacrifice to His Father—the joy of doing that which the Father sent Him to do—’...who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross...’ (Hebrews 12:2).”

Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest*, Discovery House Publishers, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1995, August 31.