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I Have Called You Friend

07.30.2023



12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's 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.

(John 15:12-15, NIV).

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What does it mean to live out the offer of salvation made available through the life and death of Jesus Christ?

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For Jesus, friendship is the ultimate relationship with God and one another.

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Jesus is both the model and the source of friendship. As the model of friendship, he calls the disciples to love as he has loved. As the source of friendship, he makes possible their own friendship through what he has given them.

Jesus enacted the ancient ideal of friendship.
He laid down his life for his friends.

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Jesus' life is not taken from him, but he willingly chooses the ultimate act of friendship.

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To keep Jesus' commandment is to enact his
love in our own lives.

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The mark of friendship with Jesus is not what Jesus does for us, but what we do for Jesus.

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Jesus showed that true love is love that
knows no limits.

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Jesus' openness is a model of how we are to treat one another, but it also provides the well-spring that makes our acts of friendship possible.

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Jesus gave everything to his friends—his knowledge of God and his own life. Jesus is our model for friendship—because he loved without limits—and he makes it possible for us to live a life of friendship—because we have been transformed by everything, he shared with us.

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