

Study Guide for Oct. 31st, 2010: Friends – No longer Servants: John 15:9-17.

Introduction: Describe a time you found yourself in a relationship with a superior and it grew into a friendship. How did your perceptions change?

- I. Jesus calls us to demonstrate our love for him by obeying his commands. (Vs. 9-10)
 - A. What has Jesus revealed about the Father's love toward him? (John 3:35 & 5:20)
 - B. How do you react to the statement that Jesus loves us as the Father loved him?
 - C. What must disciples do if they are to remain in Jesus' love?
 - D. What standard does Jesus provide by which the disciples are called to love?
- II. Jesus explains the reason for this obedience is a sharing in his joy. (Vs. 11)
 - A. What is Jesus' stated purpose in making this command (Vs. 9) to his disciples?
 - B. Speculate on the basis of Jesus' JOY. (See Luke 10:21-22 & Heb. 12:1-2)
 - C. Distinguish between JOY as Jesus describes it here and the world's definition of joy.
- III. Jesus commands us to love another – even to the point of sacrifice. (Vs. 12-13, & 17)
 - A. Recall the NEW Commandment Jesus had given his disciples. (John 13:34-35)
 - B. What is the supreme example of love? How will Jesus demonstrate this?
 - C. Write out and comment on I John 3:16 in light of this command.
 - D. Why do we find it so hard to obey this command, particularly with other believers?
- IV. Jesus explains that such loving obedience leads him to call us his friends. (Vs. 14-15)
 - A. What is the difference between a slave and a friend as Jesus describes them?
 - B. If someone claimed, "Jesus is my Friend upstairs!" How would you respond?
 - C. What are the requirements we must meet to be called the friends of Jesus?
- V. Jesus reminds us that HE chose us to bear fruit – especially answered prayer. (Vs. 16)
 - A. Why do you think Jesus reminds his disciples at this time that He chose them?
 - B. For what purpose did Jesus choose them? Explain the link with answered prayer.