

DO YOU KNOW HIM?

"The Friends of Jesus"

John 15:12-17

INTRODUCTION:

1. "**Relativism**" - is the belief that, knowledge, truth and morality exist in relation to, culture, society, or historical context and are NO absolutes.
 - a) We live in a world of relativism.
 - b) **Judges 17:6**

2. The Bible however, is unique in both its clarity and authority.

3. The Bible is absolute and unconcerned with political correctness.
 - a) **The Bible** is unafraid to confront people with the reality of their condition.

 - b) **The Bible** makes a clear distinction between those who are saved and those who are lost.
 - 1) **Luke 19:10**
 - 2) **Luke 11:23**

 - c) **The Bible** makes the distinction of those of the world, and those who are not of the world.
 - 1) **John 15:19; 17:14,16**
 - 2) **1 John 3:10**

 - d) **The Bible** makes the distinction between those in the kingdom of God's Son and those in the kingdom of darkness.
 - 1) **Colossians 1:13-14**
 - 2) **1 Peter 1:8-9**

4. **James 4:4**

5. To be "**worldly**", by definition, is to **leave God out of your life and oppose Him.**

6. **Romans 12:12**

7. **John 15:12-14a**
 - a) "**You are my friends...**"
 - 1) "**Friend**" - a person whom one knows and with whom one has a bond of mutual affection.

FOUR CHARACTERISTICS OF JESUS' FRIENDS

I. JESUS FRIENDS LOVE EACH OTHER

1. Vs 12a

a) *"This is my commandment"*

2. *Hebrews 11:1; 6*

a) *John 13:34-35*

b) *John 15:10*

c) *John 14:15*

3. Vs 12b

a) *"that you love one another"*

4. *Jesus friends love each other.*

a) *1 John 3:10; 14-15; 4:7-8*

5. Vs 12c

a) *"as I have loved you"*

6. *John 13:35*

7. Vs 13

a) *2 Corinthians 5:21*

b) *1 John 3:16-18*

II. JESUS' FRIENDS OBEY HIM

1. Vs 14

2. The essence of sin is rebellion against God.

3. A person cannot submit to God while @ the same time OPENLY rebelling against Him.

a) *1 John 3:6; 5:18*

4. *Romans 6:17-18*

5. *Titus 3:5*

6. Obedience is the inevitable result of salvation, it is proof that a person has a saving relationship with Jesus.

III. JESUS FRIENDS KNOW TRUTH

1. Vs 15

a) "*slaves*"

2. Slaves did not usually have an intimate relationship with their master.

a) *A slave wouldn't even know what his master was doing.*

b) *A master wouldn't discuss his plans or goals with his slave.*

c) *A slave was to live in total submission to his master.*

d) *A slave was bought, owned, subjected to, provided for, and protected by his master.*

3. Incredibly we are called friends.

a) When Jesus called them friends his disciples knew exactly what he was talking about.

b) The custom practiced by Roman emperors was to have a select group called "*friends of the emperor.*"

c) This "select" group of friends had total access to the king.

4. *Luke 10:23-24*

5. *1 Corinthians 2:12-16*

IV. JESUS FRIENDS HAVE A PURPOSE

1. Jesus commands His disciples to go into the world and proclaim the good news of the Gospel and bear much fruit.

2. Vs 16a

a) "*You did not choose me, but I have chosen you*"

3. The purpose of this choosing was to go and bear fruit.

a) God's choosing has to do with their **service**.

4. Vs 16b

a) "*and appointed you*"

1) The disciples were appointed his disciples for a specific mission.

5. Every believer is an appointed servant for this time, and this place.

6. Vs 16c

a) *"and that your fruit should abide"*

7. Vs 16d

a) *"so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you"*

8. Vs 17

a) *"These things I command you"*

b) *"so that you will love one another"*