

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

(John 15:12-15)

Introduction:

1. According to the Hallmark calendar, today is "Friendship Day."
2. We thought today would be a good time to:
 - a. study the information that Jesus taught about friendship in John 15:12-15
 - b. invite our friends to worship with us.
3. The main point we are making from these verses is that Jesus showed why He is such a special friend.
4. As we examine these verses further we see that Jesus also showed:
 - a. how we can be His friends
 - b. how His followers are to be friends to each other.

Discussion:

- I. JESUS SHOWED IN JOHN 15:13 WHY HE IS A SPECIAL FRIEND
 - A. According to what He said in this verse, Jesus showed how great His love is by giving His life on our behalf.
 - B. It was necessary for Jesus to lay down His life because of sin.
 1. The Bible shows:
 - a. in Romans 3:23 that sin is a widespread problem
 - b. in Romans 6:23a that death is the penalty for sin
 - c. in Romans 6:23b that the gift of eternal life is available through Christ.
 2. The gift of eternal life cost Jesus His life, and His love led Him to give His life.
 - C. The Lord's sacrifice is emphasized throughout the entire Bible.
 1. Genesis 3:15
 2. Psalm 22:1, 7-8, 16-18
 3. Isaiah 53:4-6, 10-12
 4. Matthew 20:28
 5. 1 Timothy 1:12-15
 6. 1 Peter 2:21-25
 - D. To summarize, Jesus is a special friend because He gave His life so we could be forgiven of our sins, and we can have the hope of eternal life.
 - E. In addition to showing why He is such a special friend, . . .
- II. JESUS SHOWED IN JOHN 15:14 HOW WE CAN BE HIS FRIENDS
 - A. According to what Jesus said in this verse, we must obey His commandments (see Hebrews 5:9).

- B. Just as the Lord's love for us led Him to give His life on our behalf, our love for Him will lead us to do His will (John 14:15, 23).
 - C. To receive forgiveness we must:
 - 1. be taught the Gospel (Mark 16:15; Romans 10:17)
 - 2. believe that Jesus is God's Son (John 3:16; 8:24)
 - 3. repent of our sins (Luke 13:3, 5)
 - 4. confess that Jesus is the Christ (Matthew 10:32; Romans 10:9-10)
 - 5. be baptized (Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27).
 - D. After saving us, the Lord wants us to serve Him faithfully (Revelation 2:10).
 - E. Finally, . . .
- III. JESUS SHOWED IN JOHN 15:12 HOW HIS FOLLOWERS ARE TO BE FRIENDS TO EACH OTHER
- A. According to what the Lord said in this verse, we must love one another as He has loved us.
 - B. On this occasion Jesus had much to say about love (John 13:34-35; 15:17).

Conclusion:

- 1. Did you notice how Jesus connected love with friendship?
- 2. We have shown:
 - a. why Jesus is a special friend -- He loves us
 - b. how we can be friends to Jesus -- we are to love Him
 - c. how the Lord's followers are to be friends to each other -- we are to love one another.
- 3. Are you a friend of Jesus?