

“Beloved Friends”

John 15:9-17

East Berlin Community Church

Pastor Keith A. Mosebrook

March 6, 2016

Introduction

- It's not WHAT you know, but rather WHO you know!
- Christianity is not a religion, but a relationship of Mutual Abiding
 - To produce fruit, Christ uses His Word.
 - To produce fruit, Jesus also uses the means of prayer.
 - To produce fruit, the Father prunes us!

Beloved Friends

- A. Friends are privy to the full revelation of God! John 15:15
1. Difference between a “servant” and a “friend”
 2. “Friends of the king or emperor” were close confidants.
 3. We are privy to “inside” information
 - a. To the “mysteries” of the kingdom—Matthew 13:10
 - b. To the full picture of salvation—1 Peter 1:10-12
 4. We have the ability to understand spiritual truth—1 Cor. 2:12-14
- B. Friends experience a close, personal, intimate fellowship with Jesus Christ.—John 15:9-13, 17
1. The love the Father has for His Son is the pattern for the Son's love for you and I.—John 15:9
 2. For us to enjoy the sense of intimacy with Christ, we must “*abide in His love*”
 - a. We abide in His love by keeping His commands—John 15:10
 - b. Failure to keep God's commands does not result in a withdrawal of His love.—Romans 8:38-39
 - c. The two commands of Christ—Matthew 23:37-40
 - 1) Love God with our entire being—by extension, believing in Jesus—1 John 3:23
 - 2) Love our neighbors, and by extension, loving one another. **A friend of Jesus loves Jesus' friends!**
 - d. Extent of our love—John 15:13—“*as I have loved you*”
 - 1) Jesus' sacrificial death on our behalf
 - 2) Our sacrificial giving of ourselves to help needy brother
- C. Friends are chosen and appointed for service—John 15:16
1. Jesus chooses his own friends—John 6:65; Eph. 1:4; 2 Thess. 2:13
 2. Jesus appoints and commissions us for service.
 3. The “Fruit that remains” are people who come to Christ through our ministry of sowing and reaping—John 4:35-36