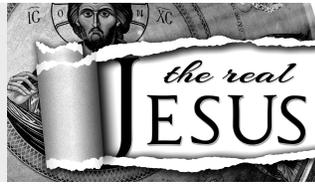


Relationship Redefined

The Real Jesus- Part 46 John 15:9-17
Noah Largent 5/23/21



A lot of “Love”?

Yes! “love” appears 9 times in these 9 verses (John 15:9-17).

It book ends these verses:

15:9 *“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you...*

15:17 *This is my command: Love each other.*

It also book ends the events of Jesus’s final night, before he is arrested & killed the next day (covered in chapters 13-17):

Chapter 13:1 *...Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.*

Chapter 17:26 *I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them & that I myself may be in them.”*

1. The Tapestry of Love.

- God the Father loves the Son (Jesus).
- Jesus obeys (loves) the father.
- God loves us!
- Our love for God is reflected in obedience (just as Jesus obeys The Father).
- Jesus commands us to love other people as He has loved us.

2. Conditional Friendship?

15:14 *You are my friends **if you do what I command** (love God and others).*

- God’s **love** for us is **unconditional!** (John 3:16; Romans 5:8)
- Enjoying the **benefits** of the friendship he offers is **conditional!**

3. Relationship Redefined!

15:14 *You are my friends...*

On the one hand this claim makes perfect sense, since God is relational (Father, Son, Spirit) and He created us, “in His image and likeness”. So, of course we see that we are made for a relationship with God and others. However, it’s also incredibly revolutionary! In other religions you were created to serve the interest of the God(s) or at best, you work your way up to earn God’s favor. No other religion has a claim like this, that God comes to us first, He cares for us and is a friend to us (serves us).

4. Jesus’ Friendship

- Jesus remains **LOYAL** when we fail Him.
- **FORGIVENESS** is available anytime we ask.
- **TRUTH** is told, even when it’s hard to hear.
- **COMFORT’S** us when we mourn.
- Inspires our life with **PURPOSE!**
- **DOES FOR US** what we can’t do for ourselves.



Community Group Questions:

1. What did you hear? What hit home from the message? How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?
2. You can’t escape Jesus’ laser like focus prioritizing loving others in these chapters. What cultural and individual challenges do you (we) face in living the way we are commanded to?

Notes:
