

NO GREATER LOVE

By Henry Janse van Rensburg
Christian Centre Abbotsford

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Key verses: John 15:8-25

John 15:8-25 NKJV

8By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

9"As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 10If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

11"These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

12This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. 14You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. 15No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. 16You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

17These things I command you, that you love one another.

18"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. 19If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. 21But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. 22If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. 23He who hates Me hates My Father also. 24If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. 25But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'They hated Me without a cause.'

John 14:26

- But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Holy Spirit is Comforter, Councillor and Teacher

John 15:4

- ⁴Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

Remain – Persisting with what happened at our conversion (salvation). Persisting in faith, yieldedness, receiving what God says to us.

John 15:5; 8-9

- ⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.
- ⁸ *This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.*
- ⁹ "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

1. The new life in of the Holy Spirit will involve trusting in Jesus' love

- ¹⁰ *If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.*

PART ONE

2. Knowing Jesus' love will lead us into obedience.

- ¹¹ *I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete*

3. The by-product of Obedience is Joy.

- ¹² *My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command.*

4. Jesus' Love Command

- ¹⁵ *I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.*

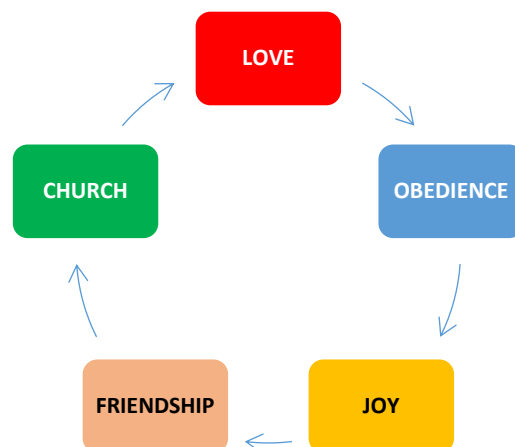
You pick your friendships based on shared values, etc. It's a safe space where you can share your hopes, dreams and even secrets. Jesus calls us friends. When we're together it must be a safe space. Friendship is the basis that Christ is building His church on.

Befriend people and bring them into your life so they can see Christ.

5. Friendship to Jesus involves knowledge of His will

- ¹⁶ *You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.*

6. The Christian has been chosen for friendship



We are to show Jesus' love to others through friendship, in the church (Body of Christ) and outside it, in the workplace, etc.

PART TWO

V18-25 **Don't** be surprised by persecution. If people mistreat you it's because they **don't** know Jesus.

Romans 12:1-2

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and **sisters**, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to **test and approve what God's will is**—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*