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Read John 15:13-16. Gerry described 5 characteristics of Jesus' friendship with His followers:

- 1) Read John 15:16a. The first characteristic of Jesus' friendship is that *Jesus pursues His friendship with initiative*. Jesus takes the first step in our relationship with Him, He seeks us out. How did Jesus seek you out?
- 2) Read John 15:13. The 2nd characteristic of Jesus' friendship with us is that *Jesus expresses His friendship through sacrifice*. How has Jesus' sacrificial love impacted you? In what ways does Jesus continue to sacrifice in your friendship with Him?
- 3) Read John 15:14. *Jesus influences His friendship towards life-change*. As we come close to Jesus, He impacts us, Jesus is an influencer. How is Jesus influencing you, such that you are being transformed and obeying His commands?
- 4) Read John 15:16b. *Jesus encourages His friendship towards fruitfulness*. He sees our potential for who we will become. How does Jesus build you up to be fruitful and grow like Him?
- 5) Read 15:15. *Jesus entrusts His friendship with intimacy*. There is closeness and connection with Christ. How has Jesus spoken to you recently that has encouraged your friendship with Him?

Jesus teaching of His friendship helps us in 2 ways. Firstly, to understand and appreciate His friendship. Are you a friend of Jesus? Have you taken the steps to live in union with Him? How deep does your relationship go? How do you experience Jesus' friendship?



Jesus says

May 31st, 2020
I call you friend

The second way Jesus' friendship helps us is He helps us to apply and practice His friendship to others. Jesus' example is a model for how we love one another. Read John 15:12 & 17.

Jesus' example of friendship shows us *we pursue our friends with initiative*. How often do you take first steps towards your friends? Do you initiate real friendships or are you satisfied with many acquaintances & few friends? Given our current environment, do you find it harder or easier to pursue your friends?

Jesus' example of friendship shows us *we love our friends with sacrifice*. How have you expressed sacrificial love to a friend recently? How well do you *sacrificially* give in your friendships (time, energy, etc)?

Jesus' example of friendship shows us *we influence our friends for life change*. Reflect on the impact you make on others. Where do you influence and where are you being influenced? How do you help others spiritually?

Jesus' example of friendship shows us *we encourage our friends in fruitfulness*. Do you build up your friends? In what ways do you support and encourage your friends in their fruitfulness? Are there stories from your life of how someone has responded positively to your believing in them?

Jesus' example of friendship shows us *we entrust our friends with intimacy*. Do you take the risk of openness or do you prefer the cover of a mask? How comfortable are you with sharing deeply with friends?