



LOVE SO AMAZING

AMONG FRIENDS

Jn. 15-12-17

2022 THEME

Jn. 15:12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

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

Our theme for 2022 is... LOVE SO AMAZING. We have considered “LOVE SO AMAZING” in several different perspectives.

Two weeks ago observed in Jn. 15:9-11 how the Lord taught that His joy was connected to love. This morning we will continue in this chapter, looking at Jn. 15:12-17, to observe what Jesus stated about the privilege of friendship. Let's look at...

LOVE SO AMAZING AMONG FRIENDS

There are seven Greek words for love—and each identify “love” with different meanings.

1. Eros: romantic, passionate love.
2. Philia: intimate, authentic friendship.
3. Ludus: playful, flirtatious love.
4. Storge: unconditional, familial love.
5. Philautia: self-love.
6. Pragma: committed, companionate love.
7. Agápe: empathetic, sacrificial love that is unconditional.

<https://www.wellandgood.com/good-advice/greek-words-for-love/>

In His description of the love of a friend, the Lord Jesus uses ἀγάπῳ which is the sacrificial love that is unconditional. He states that such love is His standard for us to follow.

I. THE STANDARD FOR LOVE, Jn. 15:12

Jn. 15:12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, **as I have loved you.**

A. The Ultimate Authority – “This is **my commandment...**”

- ❖ When I searched the Internet with the question, “What is love?” I received about 601,000,000 search results.
- ❖ Jesus supersedes all of the Internet opinions – He is the ultimate authority on all things, including the definition of love – HE IS LOVE (1 Jn. 4:8, 16).

B. The Ultimate Affection – “...That ye love one another, **as I have loved you.**”

- ❖ Believers should reciprocate His love, as well as replicate His love toward others.
- ❖ Believers should try to follow His standard – “...as I have loved you.”

Col. 3:1 **if** ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

2 **Set your affection on things above**, not on things on the earth.

- ❖ The battleground of the mind is the focus of affection. Focus on loving the Lord!

II. THE SACRIFICE OF LOVE, Jn. 15:13

Jn. 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

A. The Superlative Love – “**Greater love** hath no man than this...”

❖ Jesus taught that those who love may love with different degrees of intensity.

Luke 7:41 There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.

42 And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, **which of them will love him most?**

In Jn. 15:13, Jesus uses a comparative term – “Greater love” – and states that “no man” can exceed it if it is **the ultimate sacrificial expression of love.**

B. The Sacrificial Love – “...that a man **lay down his life** for his friends.”

- ❖ To “lay down his life” requires a person to make a conscious decision of self-sacrifice.
- ❖ The ultimate love motivates the action of the ultimate sacrifice.

Rom. 5:6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

7 **For scarcely for a righteous man will one die:** yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

- ❖ To die for a loved one is commendable, but would one die for a despicable person?

III. THE SUBSTANTIATION OF LOVE, Jn. 15:14

Jn. 15:14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

A. The Present Connection – “Ye **are** my friends...”

- ❖ A believer’s relationship with the Lord is in the present tense!
- ❖ Such a relationship is an experience-based love:

Original Word: φίλος

Transliteration: philos

Definition: beloved, dear, friendly; **Usage:** friendly;
subst: a friend, an associate.

phílos – a friend; someone *dearly* loved (prized) in a personal, intimate way; a trusted *confidant*, held dear in a close bond of personal affection.

Note: **The root (*phil-*) conveys experiential, personal affection – indicating (*phílos*) expresses experience-based love.**

<https://biblehub.com/greek/5384.htm>

B. The Profound Condition – “...**if** ye do whatsoever I command you.”

❖ A "fellowship of friendship" has a classification aspect – ““Ye are **my friends**...”

Prov. 17:17 **A friend loveth at all times**, and a brother is born for adversity.

Prov. 18:24 A man *that hath* friends must shew himself friendly: and **there is a friend *that sticketh closer than a brother***.

Prov. 27:17 Iron sharpeneth iron; **so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend**.

A recent Harvard study concluded that having solid friendships in our life even helps promote brain health. Friends help us deal with stress, make better lifestyle choices that keep us strong, and allow us to rebound from health issues and disease more quickly. Friendship is equally important to our mental health.

<https://psychologyanswers.com/library/lecture/read/439150-how-do-you-value-a-friendship#:~:text=A%20recent%20Harvard%20study%20concluded%20that%20having%20solid,Friendship%20is%20equally%20important%20to%20our%20mental%20health>

❖ A "fellowship of friendship" has a conditional aspect – "...**if**..."

Original Word: ἕάν

Part of Speech: Conditional Particle Or Conjunction

Transliteration: ean

Definition: if; **Usage:** if.

eán (a conjunction, derived from *ei*, "if" and *án*, a particle showing a statement is *conditional*) – *if*, referring to a *condition* extending to its "spin-off" *possibilities* – i.e. that happen *if* the condition is actualized or is *valid*.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/1437.htm>

Jn. 13:17 **If ye know** these things, happy are ye **if ye do them.**

The "if"-clause of a conditional sentence is called the **protasis**, and the consequent or main clause is called the **apodosis**.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Greek_conditional_clauses#:~:text=Conditional%20clauses%20in%20Ancient%20Greek%20are%20clauses%20which,consequent%20or%20main%20clause%20is%20called%20the%20apodosis.

❖ Faith and love are unequivocally connected in a faithful believer's life.

2 Cor. 5:7 (For **we walk by faith**, not by sight:)

Gal. 5:6 "...but **faith which worketh by love.**"

IV. THE SEQUENCE OF LOVE, Jn. 1:15-17

Jn. 15:15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you **friends**; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

16 Ye have not chosen me, but **I have chosen you**, and ordained you, that **ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain**: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

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

❖ Friendship is an arbitrary decision, a blessed choice as one has “chosen” to be a friend to us.

A. The Right of Sonship, 15:15

Jn. 15:15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: **but I have called you friends**; for all things that I have heard of **my Father** I have made known unto you.

❖ From being a servant to being a friend to having sonship with the Father – such is the privilege of a believer!

Jn 1:12 But as many as received him, **to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:**

13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, **but of God.**

B. The Responsibility of Sonship, 15:16

❖ A spiritual relationship includes the responsibility of being a child of God.

Jn. 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that **ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain**: that whatsoever ye shall ask of **the Father** in my name, he may give it you.

Jn. 15:8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; **so shall ye be my disciples.**

- ❖ To have friendship with the Lord Jesus is to join Him in what He loves.
- ❖ The Lord loves the lost and so should believers love those around the area and abroad (MISSIONS!)

C. The Relationship of Sonship, 15:17

Jn. 15:17 These things I command you, that ye love one another.

- ❖ Believers are to love as the Father loves.
- ❖ A believer should resemble the Father.

1 Jn. 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the **sons of God**: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

Summary

- ❖ Meet the Standard established by the Father.
- ❖ Magnify the standard by loving like the Father.
- ❖ Multiply the standard of loving like the Father by bringing forth much fruit.
- ❖ Manifest the Father by identifying as His disciple by loving each other.

Conclusion

Psa. 40:8a “I delight to do thy will, O my God...”

Mt. 20:28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and **to give his life a ransom for many.**

Prov. 17:17a “**A friend loveth at all times...**”