



**CHRIST**  
EVANGELICAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH (PCA)

## Sermon Reflection Guide; John 15:14-16

- 1. How does a person become a friend of God? In verse 14, what does Jesus say that his friends do? In light of this how should we evaluate our friendship with God?**
- 2. In verse 15, Jesus says that he does not call us servants any longer because a servant does not know his master, but Jesus says all that all he has said and taught has caused us to come to know him. Read Westminster Q&A 1-3, <https://thewestminsterstandard.org/westminster-shorter-catechism/>. Where does this direct us to learn about how we can come to know and glorify God?**
- 3. Read John 15:16. What is the first thing that Jesus says about how we have become a friend of God? What does this mean about the choices we have made to follow Christ? What does it mean to produce fruit in our own lives and the lives of others? How can we take an active role in producing fruit in the lives of others?**
- 4. In the second half of verse 16 Jesus says, “so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.” Is Jesus saying that whatever we want from God he will atomically give to us? How will seeking to obey God’s word and seeking to produce fruit in our lives and in ministry make us pray more effective prayers?**

## Sermon Summary

At the end of last week's text, Jesus says to his disciples in John 14:13, "<sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." Richard pointed out that the great shock of verse 13 is not that Jesus says he will lay down his life but rather that he would call us friends. In order for Jesus to be able to call his disciples friends necessitated his death. Paul writes in Romans 5:10, "<sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life." Naturally we are the enemies of God, but when we by faith place our trust in Christ's life, atoning sacrifice on the cross and resurrection we are reconciled to God and become his friends. In our text for this week Jesus tells what the marks of his friends are. What do the friends of Christ look like? Jesus tells us in John 15:14-16, Jesus' friends desire to know and obey his word, they desire spiritual fruit in their lives and ministry, and they desire more effective prayers.

First, Jesus tells us that his friends desire to know and obey his word. In verse 14 Jesus says, "<sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you." To be sure Jesus does not say, "You can *become* my friend by doing what I say" but rather Jesus is telling us that a mark of the friends of Christ is obedience to his commandments. Specifically, his special command given in verse 12 to love as he has loved, according to God's word. There is a real connection between loving Christ and obeying him. We cannot possibly call ourselves friends of Jesus or claim to love him if we live in disobedience to God's word. Further, Jesus tells us in verse 15 that He has told us exactly who he is, what he has done for us and what he wants from us. "<sup>15</sup> No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you." The Westminster Shorter Catechism Q&As 1-3 tell us exactly the same thing and point us to the Scriptures as our only rule to direct us as we seek to glorify and enjoy God.

Second, Jesus tells us that his friends show a desire for spiritual fruit in life and ministry. In verse 16a Jesus says, "<sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide..." It is important to point out that Jesus reminds us that our standing before God is not a result of our choices. Yes, it is true that Christ's follower make real choices and a real decision to follow Christ but what Jesus is saying here is that before we ever made a choice to follow Christ, God made a choice first, before the foundations of the world to love us and save us. Then Jesus says that as a result of the Father's choice we have been given a desire to produce spiritual fruit in our lives and in ministry. This text reminds us that Jesus not only expects us to produce spiritual fruit in our own lives in the form of sanctification, but he also expects that we will play a role in producing fruit in the lives of others. Jesus tells us that his friends "go" and bear fruit. This is a glimpse of the Great Commission where Jesus tells his disciples to, "Go, therefore, into all the world making disciples..."

Third, Jesus' friends desire more effective prayers. In the second part of verse 16 Jesus says, "...so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you." Notice that this is connected to the going and bearing fruit. Jesus does not say, pray first that God would send you, he says go and as you are going pray to the Father. Jesus' point is that as we desire to bear fruit in our own lives and the lives of others we will have to pray. That this ardent desire produces prayers that are increasingly more aligned with God's will. Jesus isn't saying that whatever selfish requests we make of God he will be obliged to answer but rather through our pursuit of obedience and fruit-bearing lives our wills become more aligned with God's will thus making us pray more effective kingdom focused prayers. It truly is a privilege to be called a friend of Christ and be called to a life of obedience, fruit and prayer.