

FRIENDS OF JESUS

Jhn 15:14-17

INTRODUCTION:

- A. If ever there existed a master/slave relationship then ours with Jesus the Christ is such
 - 1. Jesus, the Word participated in creation Jhn 1:1-3
 - 2. Jesus gave his life's blood to purchase man, (who had fallen as a result of sin), back out of bondage to sin 1Pet 1:18,19
- B. Yet, even though Jesus has every right over us as creator and owner, He calls us His friend
- C. Just what is involved in being a friend of Jesus?

DISCUSSION:

I. THERE IS A SPIRIT, A FEELING IN FRIENDSHIP COMPLETELY FOREIGN TO THE MASTER/SLAVE RELATIONSHIP

- A. Love
 - 1. There is no necessity of love at all in master/slave relationship
 - a. The one purchases, the other is purchased
 - b. The one commands, the other obeys
 - c. Not one friendly word needs to be directly exchanged between them
 - 2. Yet Jesus based his whole relationship with his disciples on love
 - a. His love for them in dying for them Jhn 15:13
 - b. Their loving obedience to Him Jhn 14:15
- B. Trust
 - 1. Even though under no compulsion whatever, Jesus freely told His disciples His plans, His hopes, for them and for the world Jhn 15:15
 - 2. He trusted them with a vital role in the accomplishment of His work 2Cor 4:7
 - 3. They trusted Him for guidance and blessing in their work Col 1:12; Rom 4:21
- C. Nearness
 - 1. A master and slave may stand elbow to elbow and yet miles apart in thinking, ambition, purpose & spirit
 - 2. Friends are near each other at all times in aims, thinking and spirit
 - 3. Jesus promised to be with them always Matt 28:20; to work with them Mk 16:20; 2Cor 6:1
- D. Giving
 - 1. Masters owns slaves for what he can get from them. If any are unprofitable he disposes of them; one uses the other for gain
 - 2. Friendship is based on giving as well as receiving
 - 3. Friendship is fully willing to be used to the help of its friend a Jesus was completely spent for us 2Cor 12:15; Jhn 15:13

II. THERE MUST BE, HOWEVER, A WORD OF CAUTION

- A. While the attitude of Jesus toward His own is that of friend - loving, trusting, nearness, and giving - we must be cautious in our attitude toward him
- B. We must look upon ourselves as servants 1Cor 6:19,20; unprofitable servants at that Lk 17:10
- C. By having this attitude we are less likely to be guilty of presumptuous sins Ps 19:13
- D. We cannot afford to use our liberty as license to go beyond God's requirements for us 1Pet 2:16

III. THE TERMS OF FRIENDSHIP Jhn 15:14

- A. There is an "if" in this matter, conveying the idea that there are conditions for us to meet before Christ will consider us His friends
- B. "IF YE DO" - we must be active, not passive, in this matter
 - 1. The tense of the verb in Greek is present which means the action is progressive, continuing. We are to keep on doing the things required
 - 2. It is personal - it is not done by proxy
- C. "WHATSOEVER" - any and everything expected by Christ
 - 1. There must be no favorite commands to hold to
 - 2. There are no "non-essentials" to be left out
 - 3. The idea of intensive study is included, that we may know "whatsoever" is required
- D. "I COMMAND YOU" - The source of order must be Jesus. Men, no matter how well-meaning nor learned, are unable to modify or substitute for the commands of Christ (our master)

CONCLUSION:

- A. Jesus has given himself for man as the friend of sinners
- B. He counts all his friends who obey His commands: for alien sinner and the erring child they are:
 - 1. For the alien Faith Heb 11:6; Repentance Acts 17:30; Confession Rom 10:10; Baptism Acts 2:38; 22:16
 - 2. Erring child: Repent, confess and pray Acts 8:22; 1Jhn 1:9
- C. He counts those as His friend who continue in the faith Rev 2:10
- D. On this basis; are you a friend or enemy of God and Jesus the Christ?