

## **“We can be friends.”**

John 15:9-17

What are the benefits of being friends with Jesus?

### **A. We are Perma-loved.**

John 15:9-10, “I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love.  
<sup>10</sup> When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father’s commandments and remain in his love.”

- You can park yourself in Jesus’ love, remaining there forever.
- Obedience is your parking gear.

### **B. We are Over-joyed.**

John 15:11, I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!

- “These things” are the claims we’ve been studying in John.
- The purpose of an “overflowing” joy is to spill it over onto others.

### **C. We are Macro-loved.**

John 15:12-13, 17, This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends ... <sup>17</sup> This is my command: Love each other.

- “Macro” means “wide-spread.” We live in a community of love, the church.
- Loving each other means we serve each other.

### **D. We are Ultra-insiders.**

John 15:14-15, You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup> I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn’t confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me.

- A slave does “forced labor.” A friend jumps in to help a shared purpose.
- The master has given us the inside information from the Heavenly Father.

### **E. We are Picked-producers.**

<sup>16</sup> You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.

- Isn't that awesome ... we were picked while we were still sinners (Rom. 5:8)?
- We were "picked" to "produce lasting fruit."

MAIN POINT: As a friend of God I have access to everything I need for a satisfying and significant life.

A closing prayer ... "Dear God, thank You for inviting me into friendship with You. It's pretty wild to think You'd want to be friends with us ... now help us learn and enjoy all the benefits of being friends with You. In Jesus' name, amen."