

RockPointe Church Central Campus Sermon Notes

Greg Methvin “Being Jesus’ Friend”

Sunday, July 20, 2025

Scripture: John 15:9-15

www.rpc.fm/sermon-library

Key Idea: The good news of Jesus is that in him we have a trustworthy helper, leader and friend, but when Jesus asks me to be HIS friend, what could I possibly offer him?

9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. (NIV)

I. What a friend we have in Jesus

- What do you cherish most about Jesus’ friendship?
- In this Upper Room conversation on the night before he dies, Jesus tenderly cares for his friends by serving them humbly (*washing their feet*), encouraging them constantly and creating a way for them to stay connected even when he is away (*the Lord’s Supper*).

II. What kind of friend does Jesus have in me?

- Jesus not only pledges his friendship to us, but asks if we will be his friend... *You are MY friend if...I have called YOU friends.*

III. What does Jesus expect from me?

IV. Can Jesus Trust You with His Cares and Concerns?

Servants DO the Master’s business, but friends KNOW the inner workings of the Master’s heart and mind.

V. What is Jesus showing you He cares about?

- Servants do the tasks assigned, but Friends “rub off” on each other and pick up one another’s characteristics. What would it mean to Love like Jesus loves?
- Emerson wrote that there are two elements of friendship: **Truth**...someone with whom we are sincere, and **Tenderness**...drawn by someone’s goodness, quality and character, they become dear to us.

Our first step is to accept Jesus’ friendship as Savior and Lord. The way we know it has happened is when we take up our end of the relationship in devotion and service.

Sermon Discussion Questions

Scripture Passage: John 15:9-15

Have a few different members of small group read the passage above aloud in 3 different versions i.e. ESV, Amp, NIV, CST, NET, prior to beginning the group discussion!

1. Who can share something we learn about the character of Jesus from this passage and/or sermon?
2. What words &/or phrases stand out to you in this passage? What questions do you have?
3. Jesus repeats the phrase, “abide in me/my love” 10 times throughout John Chapter 15. Therefore, it’s essential for us to consider, how do we know if/when we are not abiding in God’s love?
4. According to verses 9 and 10, what does it mean practically speaking in our day to day lives, to abide in Christ’s love? How does abiding in God’s love relate to obeying His commands?
5. In verse 11 Jesus says that He has told us these things so that our joy will be full. What could prevent us from being filled with joy? How do we know if the joy of Christ is in us?
6. How does Jesus' example of laying down his life for his friends inform our understanding of what it means to be a friend of Jesus? (John 15:12-13)
7. We often encourage each other to trust God. What would it look like to encourage each other in treasuring God’s friendship and asking each other what God expects from us this week? (John 15:14)
8. What are you learning from this sermon, your time in the word, and being with Jesus that helps you understand what God cares about most “and has made known to you”? (John 15:15)

We encourage you to split out men and women in separate rooms (or indoors and outdoors) for the last 2 questions.

9. Take a few minutes to pause and prayerfully consider and assess our relationship with Christ. Are you truly abiding and obeying, or are there areas where you are disconnected and struggling?
10. Is there anything hindering your intimacy with Christ and/or you from experiencing fullness of joy in Him?

For next steps and further application

- Consider memorizing John 15:13-14 this week.
- Re-read John 15:9-15. In what specific ways are you currently obeying Jesus' commands? Where are you struggling?
- How does the teaching of 'abiding in Jesus to bear fruit' shape your spiritual practices and priorities?
- Prayerfully consider is there anything you need to repent of, stop and/or go in a different direction this week to re-connect your relationship with Jesus?
- If you are not currently serving at RPC or in the community, consider www.rpc.fm/sayyes or www.rpc.fm/missions