

## Truth or Consequences: True Friendship

John 15:5-17

July 18, 2021

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**John 15:5-17:** <sup>5</sup> "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. <sup>9</sup> "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup> My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit-- fruit that will last-- and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. <sup>17</sup> This is my command: Love each other. (NIV)

### Our Vision: Connect with Christ, Church and Community

#### 1. \_\_\_\_\_ our failure to thrive

\_\_\_\_\_ sin: But you have cultivated wickedness and harvested a thriving crop of sins. You have eaten the fruit of lies—trusting in your military might, believing that great armies could make your nation safe. Hosea 10:12-13 (NLT2)

#### 2. \_\_\_\_\_ to God's dynamic friendship

\_\_\_\_\_ of growth: I am the true vine and you are the branches. If you abide in me and I dwell in you, then your life will thrive and you will bear the fruit of the Spirit of truth! Without this dynamic connection, your life will wither and your sins will sweep you away! John 15:5-6 (JOT)

\_\_\_\_\_ by love: If you seek obedience based on love, not fear, then you will remain in my love...I tell you this so that you will experience my joy and it will overflow in your heart. Follow this command, love one another as I have loved you! John 15:10-12 (JOT)

\_\_\_\_\_ to be a better friend: No one has greater love than this— that one lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because the slave does not understand what his master is doing... John 15:13-15 (NET)

#### 3. \_\_\_\_\_ better fruit

\_\_\_\_\_ of sacrifice: You did not choose me, but I chose you by giving my life for you. I have empowered you through the Spirit of truth to bear fruit that will be eternal. Whatever you need to bear this fruit ask and it will be given to you! John 15:16 (JOT)

Spiritual Action Step:

**Is your spiritual life drying up? Do you feel connected to the source of living water? God desires to fill your cup with joy and celebration. There is hope and strength for you.** Jesus said: "But those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." (John 4:14 NRS) Ask our Savior to give you living water so you may bear the fruit of God's Kingdom. This week, read John 15 and Isaiah 55 to let the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with the truth of God's love for you!

Translations: NIV: New International Version; NLT2: New Living Translation, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition; JOT: Jon's Own Translation; NET: The New English Translation.