

What does it mean to be a friend of Jesus?

John 15:12-17

The friends of Jesus are precious to Him; they have a place in Him; they have been picked by Him; and they have the ultimate purpose for Him and through Him - and that is to love others.

John 15:12-17

“This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you. This I command you, that you love one another.”

Jesus calls you a “*philos*”

John 15:12 – 17

“No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends...” – John 15:15a

Jesus’ “*philos*” are PRECIOUS to Him

John 15:15

Jesus’ “*philos*” have a PLACE in Him

John 15:15

“...but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.”
- John 15:15b

Colossians 1:13-14, 19-22

“For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins... For it was the *Father’s* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, *I say*, whether things on earth or things in heaven. And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, *engaged* in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach...”

Jesus’ “*philos*” have been PICKED by Him

John 15:16

“but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. You did not choose Me but I chose you...” – John 15:15-16

“just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love, He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace...” – Ephesians 1:4-6a

Ephesians 2:1-4

“And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,”

Jesus’ “*philos*” have been PICKED by God

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.” – Ephesians 2:8-9

Jesus’ “*philos*” have THE PURPOSE in Him

John 15:16-17

“You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you. This I command you, that you love one another.” – John 15:16-17

“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and *so* prove to be My disciples... These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and *that* your joy may be made full.” – John 15: 7-8, 11

“Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.” – John 15:13

The world will hate the friends of Jesus, *because the world hated Jesus*

John 15:18-19

“If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before *it hated* you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.” – John 15:18-19

How do I live Like a “*philos*”?

- Principle #1: Be sacrificial in loving God and others.
 - Sacrifice your sleep by getting up just 15min earlier to spend time with the Lord.
 - Sacrifice your rights as a roommate and choose to serve your roommate by washing the dishes.
 - Sacrifice your time to serve in your community (i.e. Church, non-profits, Big Event, etc.)
 - Sacrifice your money and give globally and locally

- Principle #2: Remember the Cross
 - Start the habit of making your first thought, every morning, the Cross and the empty grave. Remember the greatest example of sacrifice.
 - Let’s start a hashtag “rememberthecross”.