

# *“Beloved Friends”*

**John 15:9-17**

East Berlin Community Church

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## Introduction

- It's not WHAT you know, but rather WHO you know!
- Christianity is not a religion, but a relationship of Mutual Abiding
  - To produce fruit, Christ uses His Word.
  - To produce fruit, Jesus also uses the means of prayer.
  - To produce fruit, the Father prunes us!

## *Beloved Friends*

- A. Friends are privy to the full revelation of God! John 15:15
1. Difference between a “servant” and a “friend”
  2. “Friends of the king or emperor” were close confidants.
  3. We are privy to “inside” information
    - a. To the “mysteries” of the kingdom—Matthew 13:10
    - b. To the full picture of salvation—1 Peter 1:10-12
  4. We have the ability to understand spiritual truth—1 Cor. 2:12-14
- B. Friends experience a close, personal, intimate fellowship with Jesus Christ.—John 15:9-13, 17
1. The love the Father has for His Son is the pattern for the Son's love for you and I.—John 15:9
  2. For us to enjoy the sense of intimacy with Christ, we must “abide in His love”
    - a. We abide in His love by keeping His commands—John 15:10
    - b. Failure to keep God's commands does not result in a withdrawal of His love.—Romans 8:38-39
    - c. The two commands of Christ—Matthew 23:37-40
      - 1) Love God with our entire being—by extension, believing in Jesus—1 John 3:23
      - 2) Love our neighbors, and by extension, loving one another. **A friend of Jesus loves Jesus' friends!**
    - d. Extent of our love—John 15:13—“as I have loved you”
      - 1) Jesus' sacrificial death on our behalf
      - 2) Our sacrificial giving of ourselves to help needy brother
- C. Friends are chosen and appointed for service—John 15:16
1. Jesus chooses his own friends—John 6:65; Eph. 1:4; 2 Thess. 2:13
  2. Jesus appoints and commissions us for service.
  3. The “Fruit that remains” are people who come to Christ through our ministry of sowing and reaping—John 4:35-36