

You Did Not Choose Me But I Chose You

John 15:12-19

12 *"This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.*

13 *"Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.*

14 *"You are My friends if you do what I command you.*

15 *"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.*

16 *"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.*

17 *"This I command you, that you love one another.*

18 *"If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you.*

19 *"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.*

Let's Pray

The Word of God is under attack today as never before. That is why we place such a high emphasis on declaring, reading, and singing the Word of God.

Winstone Churchill quote: "The truth is incontrovertible; malice may attack it, ignorance may deride it, but in the end, there it is."

This certainly holds true to the Word of God. Ps 119:89: *Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.*

For any man to stand behind this or any pulpit, and misuse the Word, or mislead the people, is a very grave offence to God.

So, today as you hear the Word of God read, know that it is truth. Anything else I say is subject to question and scrutiny. Weigh my words against scripture. Don't be like the little baby birds in a nest sitting there with your mouth open ready to gobble up anything I try to shove down your throat!

In the passage we are looking at today, Jesus is talking to eleven of His disciples. Everyone else has left Him. Judas, in Chapter 13, had left the group to betray Jesus, but, in fact, it was in Chapter 12 that it is written Judas had already had it in his heart to betray the Lord. A few chapters before this,

in Chapter 6, it says “many” stopped following Jesus because the things He said were too hard to believe.

Before Judas left, they ate together and Jesus washed the feet of all twelve of the disciples. Judas heard the things from the mouth of Jesus that the others heard, he had seen the same miracles, and he witnessed Lazarus being raised from the dead. Jesus made sure His disciples knew, including Judas, that He was telling them beforehand things that were to happen so that they had proof that He was/is Lord.

In Chapter 14, Jesus told His disciples:

“Don't let your hearts be troubled...”

He was comforting those who remained. Letting them know that, yes, hard times are coming, and it will seem for a while that they will be left alone, but they will see Him again. And not only will they see Him again, but a Helper, the Holy Spirit, will come and never leave them; that they will go and do even more than Jesus Himself did, not do greater in power, but greater by being far more reaching, into all the world.

Jesus and His disciples are on their way to the garden. These are the final hours for Jesus to be with them. He loved these men, and for three years has been preparing them to be world changers for the sake of the Gospel. In Chapters 12 through 17, Jesus is recapping the teachings of those three years, condensing them down into a summary as they make their way to the place of the disciples graduation. Soon they would be without their Master. And time would come for them to be the teachers.

True enough, this is the site of the most horrific event in the history of the world. God almighty is betrayed by His creation. Jesus said, in Chapter 12, *“now My soul has become troubled...”* Time is short, and there is an urgency in His voice that we need to keep in mind as we read again these eight verses:

John 15:12-13

12 "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.

13 "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

Jesus said in Verse 9, *"Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you;* This statement is amazing, to the same degree that God the Father loves God the Son, the Son loves His disciples, that's who He is talking to here, but by extension He loves us the same way – we are His friends!

Amazing because we can see how God would love Jesus, perfection loving perfection, but loving us – not only the non-perfect, but actual God haters?!

Jesus is worthy of God's love, we are unworthy.

And Jesus laid down His life for His friends, that includes us. His life wasn't taken from Him, He laid it down – He offered His life for us – He became the sacrifice for us. That is the demonstration of the greater love.

So now I need to ask a question: Is the love of God unconditional? The answer is yes... and...no. God loves all of His creation, it tells of His glory and majesty. But the love that Jesus is speaking of here in Verses 12 and 13 is reserved for the elect. Those chosen by God to be His children. His Church.

John 13:35

35 *"By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

1 Thess 4:9

9 *Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;*

1 Peter 4:8

8 *Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.*

John 10:11

11 *"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep."*

Rom 5:6-8

6 *For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.*

7 *For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die.*

8 *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

John 15:

14 *"You are My friends if you do what I command you."*

15 *"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."*

Jesus calls us friends. If you take notice in the Epistles, the writers, the apostles, called themselves slave of Christ. Not friend. Is this a contradiction? No way.

With the same love that God the Father and God the Son have with each other, Jesus has toward us. Not only that, but Jesus told us to have love for one another. I can see that, I fall short on my part, but I can understand that the Word of God tells us this is so. But He goes on and calls us friends. Not slaves or servants depending on which English version you're using, but friends. We must not use the generosity of our Lord to elevate ourselves to the same level as God, but with humility continue to remind ourself and others that everything that we have and enjoy is because of the work of Christ Jesus.

Matthew Henry said it this way:

“The more honour Christ puts upon us, the more honour we should study to do him; the higher in his eyes, the lower in our own.”

Jesus shared with the disciples all that the Father asked Him to share for the purpose that they would in turn share with other men. Now our charge is to tell others as well.

We are friends of God, let that soak in...angels are envious of our position with God. Now, let that soak in as well. Angels do not have the experience of the new birth, but they get a glimpse of that miracle by looking at the Church.

1 Peter 1:12

“...announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven — things into which angels long to look.”

I don't know about you, but this just blows my mind to think about. Question, is there sin in heaven? So the account we have in Isaiah 6 and The Revelation 4 about the angels (or creatures or beasts depending on translation) with six wings and crying “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is the Lord”, these creatures have never sinned. Yet, in Isaiah, we are told why they have six wings. Isa 6:2-3 *“...each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.”* These creatures have been in the presence of God for how long? I don't know. What's important are these facts: Even though we are saved, we've been redeemed, we can't in this present condition be in the presence of God. Our flesh is still corrupt. We have to be given new bodies for that trip.

The angels who have been in the presence of God since they were created use two of their wings to cover their face, and two to cover their feet, and two for flying. The four used to cover with is a sign of humility and for protection. Moses did not look in the face of God, yet after he came off the mountain the people could not stand to look at his face. Can you imagine what the glory of God has done to those angels? As the examples we have recorded for us in the Word of God, we, too, would probably fall down as dead were we to look in the face of one of these angels.

The humility they portray should be an example to us that while we are called the friends of Christ Jesus, we, too, are but servants or slaves of the most high. Is there any one here that can say I deserve to be among the elect, of the chosen by God?

Isa 41:8

*8 "But you, Israel, My servant,
Jacob whom I have chosen,
Descendant of Abraham My friend,*

Luke 12:4

4 "I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that have no more that they can do.

James 4:4

4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God?

Gal 4:6-7

6 Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, " Abba! Father!"

7 Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

Philem 16

16 no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, a beloved brother, especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

James 1:1

1 James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

2 Peter 1:1

1 Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

Jude 1

Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James,

John 15:

16 *"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.*

What is Jesus talking about here? The doctrine of election. The most controversial and even hated subject in the Christian world today, and, in fact, hated ever since Jesus spoke these words. Now, in this church, we discuss this subject on a regular basis, and so much so that if you come here more than once and you hear someone mention anything about election, you'll have to say, "I've heard that before...right!?!"

One of the reasons that election has received such a bad rap is because embedded in the doctrine of election is the doctrine of total (or as we say here utter) depravity. You see, the reason that Jesus HAD to choose us is due to the fact we are dead, spiritually dead. Meaning that left to ourselves, we do not have the ability or the desire to choose Jesus. The Word of God says we are God haters. Despising the very Word of God.

So after the phrase by our Lord, *"You did not choose Me but I chose you,"* we have little to boast about; another reason for the reluctance to embrace the doctrine of biblical election. It goes against fallen nature to suggest we might not have the ability to do something. While it is true we make choices every day, all day long, we just don't concerning the things of God, especially where salvation is concerned.

I know what some people might be thinking, "Now, wait a minute, what about Peter's statement to the Lord, in Mark 10:28, *Peter began to say to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You."* So, how about that, huh?! The disciples decided to follow Jesus. Why did they decide to follow Jesus? Who chose who first? And while we talking about this, let me ask you, Who chose Judas?

Allow me to point out something to you here about verse 16. Say for a minute we omit this verse and read this passage....what is the context of these verses?

And the context is love, is it not?

1 John 3:1

See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are.

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The love between God the Father and God the Son. The love of the Father and the Son with the elect. And the love of one another of the elect. So this verse, explaining how election works, is not out of context. The Lord loves those who are His. Not in the way a master loves his slaves, but in the way that dear friends love each other. Brother Blair says we are benefitted because we are caught up in the love affair between God the Father and God the Son.

So how is election brought about...by love. 1 John 3:1: *See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are.*

He first loved us. For what reason were we elected? That we might be saved? Saved from the wrath of God? No, that is a benefit. We were chosen that we would go and bear fruit. Not because of our ability to be fruitful, we in ourselves, do not possess that ability. We are to bear fruit that remains so that it might bring glory to God.

1 Cor 3:5-8

6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth.

7 So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.

That last two phrases of verse 16: *“...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”* are so deep and rich that a whole series of sermons would be needed to unpack the meaning and do it justice.

Not only are you chosen, but you've been appointed to go and bear fruit. As I stated earlier, these words of Jesus were spoken to His closest disciples, but rest assured, these same words are just as true for you today.

IF YOU ARE CHOSEN. IF YOU ARE BORN AGAIN. If not, then we will address that in verses 17-19.

These are wonderful promises attached to election. Those who are chosen have been appointed for something. We do not all have the same gift and calling. With the appointment mentioned in verse 16 comes the assurance of

completion or victory. You will bear fruit, fruit that remains or lasts. Because it is God who called, it is God Who saves, it is God Who keeps, and it is God Who causes the fruit to come forth.

AND whatever you ask for in Jesus name, God will give it to you. Is that what is written in the Word of God? Sure it is. What does it mean? Anything we ask?

Anything we ask that will cause lasting fruit to be brought forth. Now how do we apply that to our lives today? What is the subject of this passage aside from election? Love, right?

Jesus commanded His disciples and us to love one another as we already looked at, but here is another reason to walk in that love, to guard it and to nurture it.

Matthew Henry

"Keep peace among yourselves, and this will fortify you against the world's quarrels with you. Those that are in the midst of enemies are concerned to hold together."

Acts 22:14

14 "And he said, ' The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will and to see the Righteous One and to hear an utterance from His mouth.

Rom 9:10-17

11 for though the twins were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to His choice would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls,

12 it was said to her, "THE OLDER WILL SERVE THE YOUNGER."

13 Just as it is written, "JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED."

14 What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be!

15 For He says to Moses, " I WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHOM I HAVE MERCY, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOM I HAVE COMPASSION."

16 So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, `but on God who has mercy.

2 Tim 2:2

2 The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

Eph 2:10

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

1 Cor 3:5-8

6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth.

7 So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.

Col 1:6-7

6 which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it and understood the grace of God in truth;

John 15:7

7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

John 15:

17 "This I command you, that you love one another.

This is the third time Jesus gave this command. Do you think Jesus was trying to make it clear that Christians should love one another?

Chapter 13:34: *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another."*

John 15:12: *"This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.*

John 15:17

17 "This I command you, that you love one another.

Starting the sentence with "This I command you...", I'm expecting a list of commands, but it is simply to love because love fulfills the law.

Jesus didn't just tell us to love, He demonstrated that love by laying down His life for the elect.

He demonstrated love by making us sons and daughters of God.

He demonstrated love by calling us friends.

He demonstrated love by telling us His plans.

He demonstrated love by choosing and sending the elect to preach the Gospel.

1 John 3:13-18

14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.

15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

16 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

17 But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

John 15:

18 "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you.

Starting in Genesis, you don't have to get very far into the book to see this played out. The temptation in the garden by satan is the first look at hatred toward God, and then toward man.

When God is left out of any situation, like say our life, satan dominates. I know you have heard Bro Blair say, "You're gonna serve someone." And to not serve God is an automatic declaration to serve the devil. No one, hopefully, sets out to serve satan, but (John MacArthur commentary) he dominates the evil world system and leads it in rebellion to God. 2 Tim 3:13, *But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.*

So whether it be the atheist who says there is no God, or the Jews who detest Jesus, or the person who says they don't know what they believe, to not love God is to love the world. To hate Jesus is to hate God, there is no separation. To not believe the Word of God or to hate the Word of God is to hate the triune God.

John 15:

19 "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.

"were of the world"

Matt 5:11

11 "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.

How is it a blessing to be persecuted?

1 Peter 4:14-15

14 *If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.*

Matt 10:22

22 *"You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.*

Our enduring does not save us, but because of salvation we are preserved. That is the preservation of the saints.

James 4:3-5

4 *You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*

Luke 6:32

32 *"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.*

1 John 4:4-5

4 *You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.*

5 *They are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them.*

"because you are not of the world"

John 17:14-16

14 *"I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.*

15 *"I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one.*

16 *"They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.*

Jesus prayed that God will keep us from the evil one. How about we pray this over ourselves, our family, and our church? This is one of those "whatsoever you ask will be given" prayers.

Eph 2:2-5

2 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.

3 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.

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

1 Peter 2:9-12

9 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

10 for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.

11 Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.

12 Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Here's the thing, more than likely we will be falsely accused about something in some point of time. Our charge is to make sure it is a false accusation.

1 John 3:12

12 not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.

1 John 5:19-20

19 We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

20 And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

The word used here, "true", also means genuine. Jesus is the genuine God!

1 John 5:21

21 Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

Idols – keep ourselves from false gods.

One last verse of encouragement to those who believe. We have been made to be children of God.

1 John 3:1-3

1 See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

3 And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Look at the contrast in verse 2. Children of God at the beginning of the verse and ending with we will be made like Him. We will not be deity, but our conforming to the image will be completed, finally without sin!