

Summer Reading 2026
"Part 6 – Friendship with the Friend of Sinners"
August 23, 2026
Pastor Scott Huff

John 15:9-17 ESV

[9] As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. [10] If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. [11] These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. [12] "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. [13] Greater love has no one than this, that someone 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 servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all 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 should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. [17] These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

1. Friendship with Jesus starts with HIS LOVE, NOT OURS. (John 15:9-11, 16)

Romans 5:6-8 ESV

[6] For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. [7] For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—[8] but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. Jesus' friendship is PROVEN AT THE CROSS. (John 15:13)

John 10:11, 17-18 ESV

[11] I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. [17] For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. [18] No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

1 Peter 3:18 ESV

[18] For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,

3. Jesus' friendship brings us into HIS PLAN FOR OUR LIVES. (John 15:14-15)

John 13:34-35 ESV

[34] A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. [35] By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

4. Jesus' friends become people who LOVE OTHERS LIKE HE DOES. (John 15:12, 17)

1 John 4:11-12 ESV

[11] Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. [12] No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.