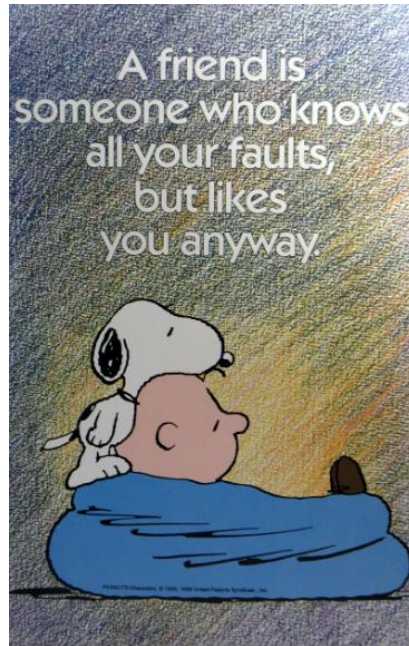


101622

I Call You Friends

John 15:12-17



Background:

This Sunday we come to the very center of the upper room discourse. In this text, Jesus offers friendship to his disciples. Yes, Jesus is the king of kings and lord of lords, but he also chooses his disciples as friends! To those first disciples, Jesus' words would have shocked them! Join us as we explore these shocking words of Jesus.

Sermon Text (ESV):

John 15:12-17

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.

Discussion Questions:

- Preparation
 - What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
 - What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- Sermon Questions
 - As you reflect on the sermon, what stands out to you most?
 - How does it make you feel that Jesus no longer *only* calls you His servants (which is a high honor in and of itself) ... but he calls you His friend *as well*?
 - In your own words, how would you describe the difference between agape love (love of decision) vs. philos love (love of a friend)?
 - Shawn mentioned four areas where Jesus expects us to respond because of his philos love. Share/brainstorm with your group examples of how you can live these out in our community:
 - Loyalty to Christ
 - Cultivation of your relationship with Christ
 - Obedience to Christ
 - Extension of the friendship to others