

his messages drift by like idle wind because we are not listening for his voice. If we silenced our passions we might be able to hear what he has to say.

### III. How To Become Christ's Friend, verse 16.

"Ye have not chosen". I believe he here refers to the little group of apostles. The choice was his. Having called his disciples friends and having instructed them in the things concerning himself, he expects them to be something else than mere patients in a doctor's hands. In all cases of friendship between Christ and men the originating of it comes from him. We love him because he (first loved) us. A fruitless branch never serves the purpose of the vine. A barren Christian profession is a misrepresentation of Christ. They were the (object) of his choosing. That to which they were appointed being to go forth into the world to bear fruit, that their fruit should be permanent and that they should possess his power and all of these things were bound up in obedience. Of course we know that Christ laid down his life for his enemies and that this can bring friendship. Those who have felt the love of Christ in their own hearts as the apostle said, "I was apprehended of Christ". It is because he places his hands upon us and draws us as

### FRIENDSHIP CREATES HOSTILITY

John 15:14-20

Jesus has just spoken some wonderful words when he referred to a man laying down his life for his friends. There are many verses involved around this truth that might require ample material for a message. However, we would like to consider this (entire section) to get an idea of what Christ's friends are to him and what he is to them and also what he says they should be to each other.

#### I. What Christ's Friends Do For Him, verse 14

He is speaking here of friends who love him and they love him because he loves them. He speaks of his commandments. This is beautiful and wonderful in that he looks upon this handful of (poor fishermen) who knew him in a dim way, yet he stoops to make them his friends, and there are none so low but that they may be his. This friendship still lasts today. There is a real strong personal tie of love what will bind men to the end of time even though Jesus died 1900 years ago. There is (nothing in all the world that is as strange as this tie with Jesus Christ). We have not seen him and yet we love him and this bond which unites us with him is the reason he said, "Ye are my friends".

There are no limitations in that friendship. There is absolute rest for us there. Why should I fear if he is my friend. Why should anything be burdensome if he walks by my side.

But notice the (condition) "If ye do what I command you". This is a blending of friendship. This seems to be a (repetition) of what He has said before. "If ye keep my commandments ye shall abide in my love". For this is the (relationship between love and obedience). If there is love there will be obedience. They that love will obey. This is more than just mere emotion or verbal expression or mechanical acts, but it is real friendship.

## II. What Christ Does For His Friends, verse 15

The slave may see what his master does, but he does not know his purpose in his acts. The commands need no explanation and if the servant is in the master's confidence he is more than a servant, but Jesus said, "I have called you friends". To be called friends by him who is God's best friend is an honor indeed. In Esther 6:11 we read it was a wonderful day when (Mordecai) was declared a friend of the king. In contrast servants have kitchen privileges but

friends have parlor opportunities. He had now given them a new name and with good reason, "Ye have I called friends". Jesus recognizes the obligation of absolute frankness and he will tell his friends everything that he can. These friends stand near to God and he speaks to them as his friends. *Many Definitions of Friendship - Little Boy - "A person who knows us & still likes us!"*

He next tells them that (there are limits). He will not pour out his treasures into vessels that will spill them. He seems to say, I have many things to say unto you, but you are not able to understand them now and so he speaks frankly with them. He tells them that there will be a gap when he has left, in their communications and in their knowledge. We sometimes think we would like to know things about the dark future where some of our hearts live so constantly. Things about the relation between God's love and his righteousness. It would have been easy, we feel, if God had lifted the veil and let all the light come in, but he seems to hold some of it in reserve and we should bow quietly and believe what he says. "If it were not so I would have told you."

Here is an obligation for us to (keep our ears open) and our hearts prepared to receive of what he has to say. Many of

his fate. It is typical of the world to hate goodness and the friends of Jesus will come under the same influence which carried him to the cross. In a world like you are going to live in, it is impossible for a man to love righteousness and hate iniquity and to order his life in Christ's step without creating some opposition, as their life will be a rebuke to those of the opposite class and he will interfere with the self-complacency and selfish interest of others.

Therefore, in the measure as Christians we directly oppose the ways of the world. What we believe to be precious, what we believe to be truth, will be of little importance to the world, for what we believe to be good will be regarded as wrong by the world.

#### VI. How This Hostility Is Masked

Now we know that there are many other bonds which bind men together beside religion. Domestic ties, commerce, neighborhood. The greater portion of our lives moves on the surface where all men seem alike. We all have the same affections and needs, do the same sort of things, and a great portion of life is under the dominion of habit and custom and is determined by external circumstances. We know that since Jesus came into the world, that the world

a shepherd comes to seek the lost sheep in the wilderness.

This then, is how we come to be his friends. Because when we were enemies he loved us and gave himself for us and has been sending his messages of love like rays of sunlight to draw us to his heart. The purpose of this is in respect to service or fruit, that ye may go. He had been telling them that he was going. Now he says to them, you are to go. This is where we part. My road lies upward, yours runs onward. "Go into all the world." He declares there is a necessity for separation and we are to go in obedience to his will. Matt-11:19 Find Publicans & Sinners

That you may bring forth fruit. He goes back for a moment to that wonderful symbol, with which he begins the chapter, the vine and the fruit, keeping his commandments and he explains the process of fruitbearing, for men do not grow Christ-like in character as the vine grows its grapes, but there must be discipline and deep inward life. There must be first unity of life with him and then effort. The spontaneous fruitbearing will come because of this dwelling and abiding with him.

"That your fruit should remain." Now there is nothing that corrupts faster than fruit can. Of course, he is speaking of the fruit that is to be permanent, the kind produced by obedience unto him.

"Whatever ye shall ask!" He has already given this promise before, but he comes to us, to his friends, who are living close to him and bearing fruit, that they will get what they want because what they want will be in his name. That is to say, friends, have the same desires and your desires will be Christ's desires.

#### IV. The Friendship of Christ's Friends, verse 17

This speaks of mutual friendship among the friends of Jesus. Thus the (relation) of the friends of Christ to one another. He says, "These things I have commanded you that you love one another." So friends of a friend should themselves be friends. We care for books and articles and various things that belong to a friend of ours. If these should be of interest to us, what about these living men and women who are friends of Christ, do we not realize that we are bound to go with them.

And then almost in a moment Jesus turns in the midst of this sweet music of friendship and the unity of life between the vine and the branches, the unity of life between the Christians and Christ to say to his beloved friends, that because of your union with me and your separation from the world, you will create hostility. This will be an evidence of your choice of discipleship. Whether it be evil or good, you my beloved, must expect the same treatment as your master. Of course, the ultimate ground of the world's hatred was ignorance of him.

#### V. What Makes This Hostility Inevitable? verse 18.

He prepares them for what is coming and he begins with the (word if). He does not startle them with a harsh statement but he puts it in the shape of suppose that. Now there is no doubt in his mind, but he says, "If the world hates you", you must remember first of all that it hated me before you. So this is a guarantee that if you have friendship with me you are going to create hostility and opposition, because if you were of the world the world would love her own, but because you are not of the world and I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world will hate you. This statement carries with it the idea that it is necessary if we share Christ's life we must necessarily in some way share

3. Steadfastness

[Prov. 18:24]

That is to conquer hostility one must be unmovable like Christ. This is a real weapon to conquer the world with. The way to win the world is not to turn the world into the church.

4. To Which Army Do You Belong?

Are you in Christ's ranks or in the world's? Do you love him? Does your friendship cause you to refuse the sins of this world. Friendship, you know, is made up of two individuals. It is not a one-sided affair. There are two parties involved and Jesus applies this word friend to his own people, to his own true followers. Abraham was called the friend of God and your highest possible honor tonight is to be called a friend of Jesus. Are we really the friends of Christ?

If you are a friend of Christ then you are trusting him as your personal Saviour. "Whoever putteth his trust in the Lord shall be saved". It is not enough to say I believe that Christ was crucified, but have I committed myself to him.

Job 2:11 - 3 Friends supposedly -

has been exposed to his teaching, but we cannot say that half of the world is Christian. And of course, the world today does not paint Christians with tar and light them as cradles in the emperor's garden, but the same things are being done in different ways. News articles laugh in scorn at righteousness. Many people hail the failures or faults of a prominent person who stood by the side of Christ. Many a working man or a college student has discovered that the man that sits close to him is not a friend of Jesus. And there is a gulf between them and their ideas, but men know that it is better and wiser to be like Christ and that there is no need to put a mask on. You let a person for Christ's sake speak on popular beliefs. Let him honestly act out the New Testament. Let him seek boldly to apply Christian principles to popular sins of his day, and what a cross of opposition will be created. Young people need to recognize that his, however, is the end that pays.

V.19 In the last part of this verse he tells us how to escape hostility if you so desire. Just be half Christian and you can get along very well in the world together. When they agree their agreement is wonderful, and it is sad to reflect today that about the average Christian of

this generation creates so little hostility. Why should the world care to hate those who go along with its plans. After all, they are only Christian in name and there is no antagonism between the God-less world and their lives. If you want to escape hostility, pull down your flag, cover up your badge, do not show that you belong to Christ and do the things the people round about you do you will have a perfectly easy and indestructible life. If you will wink at the immoralities and leave all of the sinful practices alone, why should the world hate or persecute or do anything.

It was out and out Christians that Jesus said the world would hate. The world likes Christians that are like itself.

#### VII. How the Friends of Jesus Are to Meet This Hostility, verse 20.

He reckons this as a test or a sign of true union with Jesus Christ. They may be counted upon to create hostility. How he tells them the best way in which to meet this hostility:

##### 1. By Your Goodness

You will never meet hostility with your evils or your weakness. The world has very keen eyes for the inconsistencies and the faults of professing Christians. The loftier your profession, the sharper/judgement that is applied to you. Now you may bring down a great deal of hostility which will be a discredit to Christianity by your failure in living a double life. See to it that you do not provoke this kind of uncharitable criticism. Be certain that it is Christ in you that men are hostile toward and not your sinful life.

##### 2. A High Standard

You may meet the hostility of the world with a high standard. When you begin to lower your (standard) where are you going to stop. There is no stopping place until you have put it beneath your feet. There is no use for you trying to (compromise). All that you will gain by compromise is indifference and loss. You cannot bridge over this gulf in the wrong way. There are too many people who believe that the world and Christianity go hand in hand. Keep your standard high and promote the things that the world disbelieves and denies. The way to win the victory is through absolute faithfulness.

Life After Death (Series)

Coffin Radio. Ft. Pickering. P.G. Lee

Sam R. Kimball, aged San Francisco valley rancher, placed an order with Los Angeles undertaker for \$1200 still life coffin equipped with up to date radio receiving set -

convinced (soul linger) near body until day of judgment will be able to hear what is going on in the world after he dies.

If you are really the friend of Christ then (you love him.) You will love him with your heart. When we think about the lack of love in human relations that robs marriage of its beauty and sacredness, but what of the love that is absent in church. "By this shall all men know that you are my disciples if ye have love one to another." We know that we have passed from death unto life because we love the brethren. The Bible says of the church at Ephesus, "I know of thy labor, thy patience. I know thy hatred against heresy. I have somewhat against thee because thou has left thy first love". A loveless church is a Christ-less church. We are members of a great family of God.

And then by way of summary, if we love him we will try to obey him. We will (desire) to obey him. "Ye are my friends," our scripture says, why will we call him Lord, Lord and do not the things which he says. What is it that Christ wants from us. He wants our friendship. Do you trust him as your Saviour. Does your heart want to do whatever he bids you do. Does your heart go out in obedience to his commands. Do you strive to know what Christ would have you do, and then strive to carry it out the best you can. Your answer is yes if you are a Christian. He wants



your friendship and your friendship expressed in faith in him.

Above all human relations the friendship of Jesus Christ is the (most important.) Have we turned away from this Have we said, I want to be a friend of Christ but I have not made it know yet. Should not we make our friendship know. For your own sake you should make it known. For the sake of others you should make it known. For gratitude to Christ you should make it known.

What good is there in being a (secret friend) of Christ. There are some who have never come to Christ and made that great decision. They have never put their destiny in his hands. He waits for them and says, "Today if you hear my voice, harden not your heart."

James 2:23 7 g God

James 4:4 7 g world

What a Friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins & griefs to bear!  
What a Privilege to carry  
Every thing to God in prayer  
O What peace we often forfeit,  
O What needless pain we bear  
All because we do not carry  
Every thing to God in prayer -

(Music begin to quote - a choir had  
a long stand singing 'What a friend :-)  
into semitone -