

III. SUPREME FRIENDSHIP

John 15:13... Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

Key: Our pathway is to **love** as Christ loved us "laying down His life."

John 13:1... It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.

CONCLUSION:

You can make more friends in two months by becoming interested in other people than you can in two years trying to get people interested in you.

—Dale Carnegie

**First Church of God
March 24, 2013
Sermon Outline
Robert G. White – Senior Pastor**

"Friends Forever"

John 15:12 – 17

- 12** My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.
- 13** Greater love has no one than this that he **lay down his life for his friends.**
- 14** You are **my friends** if you do what I command.
- 15** I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.
- 16** You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.
- 17** This is my command: Love each other.

Proverbs 18:24

INTRODUCTION:

John 13:34 – 35

"A new command I give you: Love one another, As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

"Freond" = A Saxon word that the English word for friends is derived.
- Means "one who is loved."

I. EASY FRIENDSHIP

Proverbs 18:24...A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

1. Easy friendship is often a **Disastrous** relationship.
2. Everyone needs a **Faithful Friend.**

What matters most in life is not what ladders we climb or what ownings we accumulate. What matters most is relationships.
—**Max Lucado**

II. LOYAL FRIENDSHIP What are the marks of real friendship?

1. Real friendship involves **Loyalty.**

Question: What kind of friend are you?

I Corinthians 13:7..."It (love) **always** protects, **always** trusts, **always** hopes, **always** perseveres."

Key: "Always"... being available to help in times of **distress** or personal **struggles.**

Proverbs 17:17a... A friend loves at **all times...."**

2. Real friendship involves **face-to-face Honesty.**

Exodus 33:11...
Inside the tent the **Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.** Afterwards Moses would return to the camp, but the young man who assisted him Joshua, (son of Nun), stayed behind in the Tabernacle.

3. Real friendship is found with **Jesus.**

John 15:15..."I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know the master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

4. Real friendship is imitating Christ in our **lives.**

Ephesians 5:2... And live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Jesus: Our Model For Christian Friendship

1. Faithful in His **Provision.**
2. Faithful in His **Teaching.**
3. Faithful in His **Guidance.**
4. Faithful in His **Nearness.**