

Finding our True Home, Part 2  
John 15:9-17

Following Jesus is about finding our True Home—in Him

## Fullness of Joy

(v.11) “I have spoken these things to you that my joy may be in you and your joy may be full.”

## Friendship with God

(v.15) No longer do I call you servants but friends.

## A Fruitful life

(v.16) You did not choose me, but I chose you. I appointed you that you should go out and produce fruit and that your fruit should remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He will give you.

Why this Command is Unpopular:  
The Narrative of the Sovereign Self

“No one has a right to interfere with me for my own good, but only to prevent harm to others”

-Charles Taylor.

One person says that it harms no one for a man to consume pornography privately in his own home. Others counter, however, that pornography will shape how he talks and acts with others, especially with women. Beneath these different conclusions about harm lie different understandings of the right and wrong way for individuals to relate to community. In other words, any decision about what harms other is rooted in specific views of human nature, happiness, and right and wrong –each of which is a matter of faith. So even if we all agree that freedom should be curtailed if it harms people, since we can't agree on what harm is, the principle is useless in practice.

Why This Command is Impossible:  
Go ahead, Try Loving Like Jesus Loved

...This is My command: Love one another as I have loved you.  
(v.12)

...You are My friends if you do what I command you. (v.14)

Trust Love to obey & obey to trust Love

## Jesus Is A Committed Friend

John 15:12-15

This is My command: Love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, that someone would lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are My friends if you do what I command you. 15 I do not call you slaves anymore, because a slave doesn't know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have heard from My Father.



(v.9) “As the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you.  
Remain in My love.

Just as much as the Father loved me—there! That is how much I have loved you. Make your home in this special love of mine (and relax).

## Jesus Is A Friend Committed to Our Fruitfulness

John 15:16-17

You did not choose Me, but I chose you. I appointed you that you should go out and produce fruit and that your fruit should remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He will give you. 17 This is what I command you: Love one another.

Powering up “works” in the short term- get the behavior under control so we can go to church- but it won't make my kids wise (able to make good decisions), and it won't lead them to love (making good decisions as a surrender to love). And that's what I'm after as a parent: to see my kids become wise and loving humans If fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, God's love is how this wisdom matures.

As I parent, I'm learning that in order for obedience to mature into wisdom it must flow from a deep surrender to love. Fear of punishment will get me behavior modification in the short term, but not wise loving kids in the long term. This is what God wants for his kids: wise and loving kingdom agents who are able to bear his Spirit in Christ's authority.

So that “whatever” you ask the Father in My name, I will give you.

1) Help us appreciate your being the real Root of the Matter (John 15:1)

2) Help us to bear fruit and to bear the cutting back that this will often mean (v.2)

3) Help us to appreciate your Word that cleansed us and that keeps cleansing us (v.3)

4) Help us to accept your invitation to make our home with you (v.4)

5) Help us to stick with you as you stick with us (v.5)

6) Help us to take to heart the warnings you gave us about the dangers of not sticking with you (v.6 & 2a)

7) Help us to let your words make such a home in us that we can ask thoughtful “Whatever’s” in prayer (v.17)

8) Help us bear fruit that lasts and so to bring glory to the Father (v.8).