

Our Identity in Christ - Friend

John 15:9-17

This summer we are examining our identity in Jesus Christ. Today we come to our identity as a Friend of God. Only Abraham, Moses and New Testament Believers are called Friends of God in the Bible. Why are we friends and what does that mean to us?

1. Abraham and Moses (2 Chronicles 20:7, Isaiah 41:8, James 2:23, Exodus 33:11)
2. A friend is: someone we like, someone we trust, someone we hold in regard or esteem, someone who gives us help, aid, assistance, and someone we spend time with
3. Abraham and Moses – do they meet the definition? (Hebrews 11:17-19, Genesis 11, 12, 18, Exodus 33:17-23, 34:35)
4. Disciples and believers – do they meet the definition? (John 15:9-17, James 4:4)
5. Time and Communication (Psalm 1:1-2, 119:11, 119:105, Hebrews 4:12, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Ephesians 6:17-18, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, James 5:13-18)

1. Why do you think Adam and Eve, Enoch, Job, Elijah, David and others were not identified as friends of God?
2. Do you more readily identify as a servant or friend of God? Why?
3. How do we spend time with God?
4. How can we help God?
5. In our Identity with Christ, we are many things, we relate to him in many ways (friend, servant, heir, child). How are these relationships complemented by our freedom in Christ, the purpose he gives us and our completeness in Christ?
6. Dig in to James 5:13-18. When do we pray? Why should we go to the elders? What does confession look like? Why does he tie healing and forgiveness of sins together? Do you struggle with faith when you pray for seemingly impossible things? How is Elijah like us today?