

II. HIS RELATIONSHIP TO OTHERS (John 15:12-17)

A. The Importance of Love (John 15:12-13)

1. The commandment to love (John 15:12; John 13:34-35)
2. The height of human love (John 15:13)
 - a. The laying down of life for a friend
 - b. The greater love of the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:6-10)
 - 1) For the ungodly (Romans 5:6)
 - 2) For sinners (Romans 5:7-8)
 - 3) For His enemies (Romans 5:9-10)
3. The proof of Christian love (1 John 3:16); the love of Christ in us (Ephesians 3:17-19)
 - 1) The example of Priscilla and Aquila (Romans 16:3-4)
 - 2) The example of Epaphroditus (Philippians 2:25-30)
 - 3) The example of Paul (Acts 20:24; Acts 21:13; 2 Corinthians 12:15; Philippians 2:17)

B. The Relationship of Love (John 15:14-15)

1. The position of friendship (John 15:14; Galatians 4:5-7; Philemon 1:16)
2. The test of friendship (John 15:14; John 14:21; 1 John 5:3)
3. The weakness of servitude (John 15:15)
 - a. Not knowing what his master does (Matthew 8:9)
 - b. The disciples no longer exclusively servants
 - 1) They are still servants (John 15:20; Romans 1:1; Romans 6:22).
 - 2) But no longer only servants
4. The privilege of friendship (John 15:15; Romans 16:25-26; 1 Corinthians 2:9-10; Ephesians 1:7-9; Colossians 1:25-27)

C. The Fruitfulness of Love (John 15:16-17)

1. Chosen (John 15:16)
 - a. The act of being chosen
 - 1) We did not choose Christ.
 - 2) Christ chose us (Compare 1 John 4:10, 19).
 - b. As applied to salvation
 - 1) God's call to salvation is universal (1 John 2:1-2; 2 Peter 3:9).
 - 2) Our acceptance of salvation is personal (1 Timothy 4:10; Matthew 22:14).
 - 3) Those who accept the call are the chosen (Ephesians 1:4; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 2:9).
 - c. As applied to service
 - 1) In context, this verse refers directly to the choosing of the apostles (John 6:70; John 13:18; John 15:19).

- 2) By application, it refers to God's particular plan of service for each of us (Acts 9:15; 1 Corinthians 1:27-28; 2 Timothy 2:4).
2. Ordained (John 15:16)
 - a. To ordain is to order; to establish in a position (Psalm 8:3).
 - b. Often refers to the act of placing someone in a particular position (Jeremiah 1:5; Mark 3:14; Acts 1:22; Acts 14:23; Romans 13:1; 1 Timothy 2:7; Titus 1:5)
 - c. Also refers to the particular calling of any Christian (Ephesians 2:8-10)
3. Sent (John 15:16)
 - a. Sent by God (John 1:6)
 - b. Sent to the world (Matthew 21:28)
 - c. Sent to bear fruit (Psalm 126:5-6)
4. Enabled (John 15:16)
 - a. To bear fruit (John 15:4-5)
 - b. To see the fruit remain (Galatians 4:11; Philippians 2:15-16)
5. Empowered (John 15:16)
 - a. To ask in the name of Jesus
 - b. To receive of the Father what is asked (John 14:13)
6. Commanded (John 15:17)
 - a. Commanded by the Son
 - b. Commanded so that we might love one another (1 John 3:14)

III. HIS RELATIONSHIP TO THE WORLD (John 15:18-27)

A. Hated by the World (John 15:18-19; 1 John 3:13)

1. The origin of the world's hatred (John 15:18)
 - a. Not its hatred of the disciples
 - b. But its hatred of the Master
2. The cause of the world's hatred (John 15:19)
 - a. Their separation from the world – not “of the world” (John 17:14)
 - b. Their selection by Jesus Christ – “I have chosen you”
 - c. Their removal from the world – “out of the world” (John 17:6)

B. Persecuted by the World (John 15:20-21)

1. The key aid to the persecuted (John 15:20) – “Remember the word.”
2. The key reason for the persecution (John 15:20)
 - a. The servant is under his lord.
 - b. The lord has been persecuted.
 - c. The servants will be persecuted (2 Timothy 3:12).
3. The key relationship to others (John 15:20; 1 Samuel 8:7)
 - a. If they obey the Lord
 - b. They will obey His servants (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; Hebrews 13:17).
4. The key purposes of the persecution (John 15:21)
 - a. For His name's sake (Matthew 10:22; Acts 9:16)

b. Because they are ignorant of the Father

C. Hated Because of the Son (John 15:22-25)

1. His revelation (John 15:22)
 - a. The revelation of God's word (John 12:48)
 - b. The revelation of their sin (John 9:41; John 16:8-9; Romans 3:19-20)
 - c. No more cloak for their sin (Romans 2:1; 1 Peter 2:16)
2. His works (John 15:23-24)
 - a. The hatred of the Son and Father (John 15:23; 1John 2:23)
 - b. The revealing power of the works of Jesus (John 15:24)
 - 1) His works revealed their sin (John 3:2; John 5:36)
 - 2) They responded in hatred (John 10:32; John 12:37; Acts 2:22-23)
3. His word (John 15:25)
 - a. The action fulfilled a prophecy.
 - b. They hated him without a cause (Psalm 35:19; Psalm 69:4).

D. Empowered in the World (John 15:26-27)

1. By the coming of the Comforter (John 15:26)
 - a. The Comforter comes.
 - b. The Son sends the Comforter.
 - c. The Comforter comes from the Father.
 - d. The Comforter is the Holy Ghost or Spirit of God.
2. By the testimony of the Spirit of truth (John 15:26)
 - a. Proceeding from the Father
 - b. Testifying of the Son (John 16:13-14)
3. NOTE: Key passages on the relationships within the Trinity
 - a. The Son proceeded from the Father (John 8:42).
 - b. The Spirit proceeded from the Father and the Son (John 15:26).
4. For the purpose of bearing witness (John 15:27)
 - a. The commission to bear witness (Acts 1:8)
 - b. The importance of their witness (Luke 1:1-2; Acts 1:21-22)