

Effects of Friendship with Christ #1
“Creating a biblical friendship with Christ”
John 15:14
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show what it takes to create a biblical friendship with Christ.

- Intro:
1. What is a friend?
 2. Who is a friend of Christ?
 3. Why should we be a friend of Christ?

I. “if you do”

A. IF

1. The “if” shows our friendship with Christ to be conditional (**Deut 28:1, 28:15**).
2. Thus we are only friends of Christ if we obey Him (**Heb 5:9**).

B. YOU DO

1. We prove ourselves as friends of Christ when we DO as God commands (**Rom 2:13, James 1:22**).
2. It’s not just doing as Christ commands but being ready, ready to do as God commands (**Gal 6:9a**) & His commands are not burdensome (**1 Jn 5:3**).
3. It is in vain to profess that we are friends of Christ then not do what He commands (**Lk 6:46-49**,

II. “whatever I command you.”

A. WHATEVER

1. It’s interesting to note that the test of friendship with Christ isn’t dying for Him but an obedient faith in Him. Thus an obedient faith is defined as a faith that obeys His commands (**Rom 2:6-9**).
2. Not only do friends of Christ obey His commands, they obey the commands that even some “Christians” do not agree with or follow (**1 Pt 4:17, Matt 15:3-6**).

B. I COMMAND YOU

1. Friends of Christ are only friends of Him when they obey His commands. Even in the midst of unbelieving and worldly people we must obey God and not man (**Acts 5:29**).
2. Friends of Christ are obedient despite being disliked or even hated for obeying Him (**Heb 11:25**).

III. Benefits of being a friend of Christ.

A. Friends of Christ have many names all carry benefits.

1. Friends of Christ are also called sons and daughters (**2 Cor 6:18**).
2. Friends of Christ are sometimes called disciples (meaning learners, **Matt 5:1**).

B. Friends of Christ have eternal life.

1. A friend of Christ isn’t (as we have pointed out) someone who merely likes some of the teachings of Christ but is a faithful and obedient servant (thus a friend of Christ).
2. Such a friend of Christ has eternal life.

- Conc:
1. Friends of Christ are identified in the Bible. These friends have met the qualifications to be a friend of Christ.
 2. Are you a friend of Christ?
 3. Full Invitation