

I Am My Creator's Friend

John 15:9-17

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A child's definition of a friend:

Someone who knows all about you and still likes you anyway.

"But you, O Israel, my servant,
Jacob, whom I have chosen,
you descendants of Abraham my friend,
I took you from the ends of the earth,
from its farthest corners I called you.
I said, 'You are my servant';
I have chosen you and have not rejected you.
So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
"All who rage against you
will surely be ashamed and disgraced;
those who oppose you
will be as nothing and perish.
Though you search for your enemies,
you will not find them.
Those who wage war against you will be as nothing at all.
For I am the LORD, your God,
who takes hold of your right hand and says to you,
Do not fear; I will help you. (Is 41:8-13)

Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. (Romans 4:16)

Because I am my Creator's friend, my life can be radically transformed.

1. Friendship with our Creator is marked with love. (v. 9)

I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge -- that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:17-19)

2. Friendship with our Creator is marked by obedience (v. 10)

3. Friendship with God is marked by joy. (v. 11)

Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, for the **joy set** before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, (Hebrews 12:2)

The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save.
He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love,
he will rejoice over you with singing." (Zephaniah 3:17)

This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome... (1 John 5:3)

4. Friendship with our Creator is marked by sacrifice. (v. 12-13)

The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life -- only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father." (John 10:17-18)

5. Friendship with our Creator is marked by intimate knowledge. (v. 15)

6. Friendship with our Creator is marked by the bearing of fruit. (v. 16-17)