



Applied Living

John 15:12-17

Message Notes by Dr. Mark Platt

As Jesus finished His vine and branches sermon, He moved from theory and doctrine to practice and application. Verses 1-11 told us to remain in Him, to obey Him, and to bear fruit for Him. But in verses 12-17, Jesus tells us that these things need to be applied and lived. If you are going to have your best life, you will need to apply the Scripture, live Jesus' way, and practice the faith.

In John 15:12-17, Jesus gives **four ways** that God wants to apply His message and receive the optimum life that He wants to give us:

I. You obey Jesus' command

(verses 12a, 17)

1. There are no options

"My command is this ..."

2. There are no exclusions

"Love each other..."

II. You follow Jesus' example

(verse 12b-13)

1. It was unconditional love

Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9

2. It was selfless love

2 Corinthians 8:9; Philippians 2:5-8

3. It was gracious love

2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 3:5-6; 1 John 4:19

4. It was sacrificial love

Romans 5:8; 1 John 3:16

5. It is an everlasting love

Romans 8:38-39; Ephesians 2:6-7

III. You become Jesus' friend

(verses 14-15)

1. Your slavery is ended

"I no longer call you servants..."

2. Your friendship is established

"Instead, I have called you friends"

IV. You prove Jesus' choice

(verses 16-17)

1. You are chosen to represent Christ

"appointed you to go ..."

2. You are chosen to bear fruit for Christ

"appointed you to ... bear fruit"

Your Response:

1. Have you accepted God's love by putting your trust in Jesus as your Savior and Lord? To let Him into your life, pray a prayer something like this:
Dear Jesus, I know that I am a sinner. I need Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I now turn from my sins and invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior from now on. Amen
2. What is the one thing that God wants to apply to your life from John 15:12-17?
- 3, As you think of God's love in Christ for you, what can you learn and apply from His example?
4. When Jesus commands you to love, who in your life is He telling you to love?
5. Who have you been excluding from your love list? Are some of them hard to love? Ask God to help you love them.
6. What are some loving things that God wants you to do for these people? What do you need to do?

Resources:

The Love Life by Donald Grey Barnhouse
Daily Study Bible: The Gospel of John by William Barclay
The Gospel of John: A Commentary by Frederick Dale Bruner
Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God by Francis Chan
The Gospel of John by William Hendriksen
The Gospel of John by R.C.H. Lenski
The Four Loves by C. S. Lewis