

Jesus Christ—Our Intimate Friend

Charles Stanley

I. Introduction.

- A. In the Garden, God said that it was not good for man to be alone.
- B. Jesus Christ intends to be our friend.
- C. Text: John 15.

II. Evidence that Jesus was a friend.

- A. Jesus would lay His life down for the disciples as their friend.
- B. Jesus tells the disciples things that He does not tell others.
- C. Jesus called Lazarus His friend. (John 11)
- D. Jesus was called a friend of tax collectors and sinners.

III. Ways Jesus expresses His friendship.

- A. He lays down His life for His friends. Genuine friendship loves sacrificially.
- B. He takes the initiative—He chooses us before the foundation of the world.
- C. He wants the best for us.

IV. Jesus is an intimate friend.

- A. He is not too busy.
- B. True intimacy requires:
 1. Acceptance. Jesus accepts a person just the way he is.
 2. Closeness. Jesus is always in the process of moving towards us.
 3. Forgiveness.
 4. Openness.
 5. Availability.
 6. Listening.
 7. Sharing life.

8. Giving.

V. To develop a relationship with Christ...

A. We need to develop sensitivity.

B. We need commitment.

Application questions:

1. Which qualification for true intimacy stands out to you? What strikes you about it?

2. Why do you think it is difficult for some to accept Jesus as a friend?

3. How will you grow in your intimacy with God in a practical and provable way this week? Explain.
