



ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN

John 15:9-17

Remain in my love.

Introduction: Jesus spoke these words the night before he suffered and died for all. He predicted the events that were to happen. He prayed for his disciples. He reaffirms God's love for them, his love for them, and commands them to remain in God's love and to live for others in that love.

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other."

Verses 9: Why is confirmation weekend such a big weekend in the Lutheran church?

How has Jesus shown you he loves you?

How are we to show our love for him?

What is our source of power for this?

Verse 10-12: What value is there for us and others in following God's commands for us?

What did Jesus accomplish by keeping God's commands perfectly?

As sinners we show daily we fail in keeping God's law perfectly. But why do we daily make every effort to repent of sin and strive to keep God's laws, especially Jesus' command to love each other as he loved us?

What joy did this bring Jesus to keep his Father's commands and follow his will?

What joy does it bring us to follow God's will?

Verse 13: How did Jesus make the ultimate sacrifice?

How does that enable us as forgiven children of God to daily joyfully make this sacrifice for others?

Verses 14-15: What is the difference between being a servant and being a friend of our master?

You are Jesus' friend. How does that show in your life?

Verses 16-17: Why is that a comfort to us that our relationship with Jesus is not based on something we do or a choice we make, but that he chose us?

You are a living branch connected to the vine – Jesus. What are some of the fruits God brings forth in you to help others?

God will give you everything you need in Jesus' name. What will you ask him for as you live for him?

Prayer: Dear Friend and Savior Jesus Christ, Thank you for your love, your sacrifice for me and for calling me your friend. Thank you for the freedom to show that love to others in my words, actions, and deeds. Grant your blessing on the young people who publicly confess their faith this weekend. Strengthen them with your love. Keep all of us in your love forever. We ask this the name of our dear Friend, you, Amen.