

## Resurrection Relationships

John 15:9-15 (p. 902 in ESV Pew Bible)

### Introduction

- A. November 18, 1985. The *Washington Redskins* versus the *New York Giants* on Monday Night Football.
- B. *The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game* published by Michael Lewis in 2006.

### I. Maundy Thursday, Jesus' Last Supper with His Disciples

- A. John 15:12-13 – *“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.”*
- B. John 3:16 – *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

### II. The God of all creation has \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Ephesians 2:8 – *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—*
- B. John 15:15 – [Jesus said,] *“I no longer call you servants, ...I have called you friends...”*

### III. We are called to have \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. John 15:12 – *“Love each other as I have loved you.”*
- B. Romans 12:9-10 (RSV) – *Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.*
- C. Exodus 20:12 – *“Honor your father and your mother.”*
- D. Proverbs 18:24 – *...there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.*
- E. Proverbs 17:17 – *A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born adversity.*
- F. Luke 10:27 – *“Love your neighbor as yourself.”*

### IV. Sacrificial Love results in \_\_\_\_\_.

### Application

- A. God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son so that we might enter into a right relationship with our Heavenly Father.
- B. In turn, we are called to love our neighbor—to lay down our lives for others.

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Going Deeper (May 12/13, 2012)

### OPEN:

Recall an occasion when someone gave up something (sacrificed) that was to your benefit and well-being.

### DIG: Read John 15:9-17

1. What *new* challenge did Jesus give to His followers? See **John 15:12**; see also **13:34**. Pay attention to that little word *as* and consider its significance.
2. How is this different from the Old Testament command in **Leviticus 19:18**?
3. The people of God understood the word *neighbor* to mean a fellow Israelite. According to **Luke 10:25-37**, who is our neighbor?
4. How does Jesus love us? See **John 15:9**.
5. Did God wait for us to first befriend Him *before* He loved us? See **Romans 5:8,10**.
6. Ponder these words for a moment. What truth about love does this passage reveal? What should characterize our love for others?
7. Jesus intended love to be the defining characteristic of Christians. Read **John 13:35**. Why would our love for others demonstrate that we Christ's disciples?
8. What does Jesus command us to do as His disciples, and how does He instruct us to do this? See **John 15:9b-10**.
9. What are two reasons why our Lord Jesus commands us to love as we have been loved? See **John 15:11**.
10. What specific commandment does our Lord present to His disciples in **John 15:12-13**?
11. How do we *know* love, and how are we to *show* love? See **1 John 3:16**.

### REFLECT:

1. What does it mean to you personally that Jesus sacrificed His life *for you* so that you might now be in relationship with our Father in heaven?
2. Consider/Discuss: *Sacrifice* (selflessness) results in *relationship*. In what way(s) have you seen this evidenced in God's relationship with you? ...your relationship with others?
3. What insight does this provide in light of **John 15:13**?