

Created to Be  
**Connected**  
 Part II

March 19, 2017

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup>My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>This is my command: Love each other.

*In this Series we will learn:*

God has uniquely created us to be connected to Him and to one another. Jesus reveals to us the way to a right relationship with God and calls us to love one another in community.

*Recap part I:*

*“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”* John 15:5

Jesus is the true vine

God is the Gardener

We are branches

Our connection to Jesus reveals our status, determines our destiny, and leads to life.

## 1. Love is a Command

*“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.”* John 15:12

*“This is my command: Love each other.”* John 15:17

### a. We need God

### b. We need Friends

- i. Friendship with Jesus enables us to be good friends.

*“Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another, ‘What! You, too? I thought I was the only one.’”*

*-C.S. Lewis*

## 2. Love produces Joy

*“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”* John 15:11

*“...so that I may come to you with joy, by God's will, and in your company be refreshed.”* Romans 15:32

## 3. Love requires sacrifice

*“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”* John 15:13

## 3 Ways to cultivate this type of Friend-love

### 1. Serve

*“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms”* 1 Peter 4:10

*“...rather, He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.”* Philippians 2:7

### 2. Join

<sup>42</sup>*They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup>Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All the believers were together and had everything in common.* Acts 2:42-44

### 3. Go

*“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit.”* John 15:16