

## **Loving the Branches (John 15: 12-17)**

- 15:12-17 focus: the friendship that is to exist among the branches
- 15:1-11 focus: relationship of the vine with branches: Jesus & His sheep
- 15:18-27 focus: relationship of the vine & branches with the world
- Jesus expounds the importance of love & friendship between believers
- He shows us the love we have with one another: evidence of His love

### **I. Principles that Advance Friendship & Love Among Branches (12,13)**

- Outflow of love for Christ: obedience the command to love one another
- Love & sacrifice harkens back to 13:34 “Christ’s new commandment”
- Key principle of the new covenant the love is the new wine of obedience
- Jesus’ love sets us free: live like Him, lay down our lives for one another
- It is the love that considers others as more important than yourself

### **II. The Principle of Mutuality in Friendship and Love (vv.14-15)**

14 “You are my friends if you do what I command you.”

- Proof of His love in us: love for & desire to follow Him & serve others
- As we follow Jesus: share same heart (intimacy), hopes & goals (15)
- He doesn’t consider us slaves, but friends: fellowship with the Father

### **III. The Principles of Promotion (v.16)**

- Jesus loved them from the beginning and chose them in His love
- His desire is that we bear fruit, longing for us to succeed in Him
- We need to be encouraging one another & building one another up
- Christ uses this interpersonal ministry to edify & strengthen His people