



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel
John 15:12-17
From Sermon 1.12.25

Read *John 15:12-17*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: If you use the inaccurate, historic English Bible translations, there is almost no controversy in these continuing loving, equipping words of Christ. However, the accurate translation causes a firestorm. As with every Bible truth, once you alter the wording you inevitably alter the doctrine, and it snowballs from there. [JW example] This is the case of the modern church. This special lesson focuses mostly on that alteration since it's critical to the remainder of Jesus' teaching.

1. In just a casual scan of the text, what topics does Jesus touch on in this section? Commandment. Love. Degree of love. Friendship with Christ. New identity. Sovereign election. Fruit-bearing. Answered prayer.

1a. Although all great and valid topics, what did we camp on in Sunday's sermon? The Master/slave relationship reality.

2. What emotions and reactions do you have when you hear the term "slave". Various personal answers. Overwhelmingly negative, based on the horrific/evil slave trade for hundreds of years.

2a. But to be culturally sensitive (and now politically correct), what did the translators of the English Bible do? Altered the Scripture to avoid the very word/term Jesus used...Scripture uses.

- Greek Word: Doulos = slave = ownership
- Used 150 times in the New Testament in some form.
- "Servant" = Diakonos = deacon = hired

3. With this word change accepted (even celebrated in some circles), what false doctrine has also arisen? That God/Christ somehow serves us. He is bound by my will and desires, not the other way around. This false doctrine undermines the sovereignty of God. Also, the entire "manifest" movement.

4. What controversial truths are concluded when we remain faithful to the "slave" doctrine?

Everyone is slave...a slave to something. See *Romans 6:16* & *2 Peter 2:19* (use Legacy Standard Version).

Everyone has one of two possible Masters:

- Christ Jesus/Yahweh. See also *Joshua 5:13-15* & *2 Peter 1:1*
- Sin (Devil). See *John 8:34* & *44*

5. If the Bible clearly teaches that Christians are slaves (*1 Corinthians 6:19-20*), how can it also teach we are free? We have been freed from the bondage of sin—the curse—the requirements of the Law.
See *Romans 8:1-2*

6. Is it okay (orthodox) to view Jesus as a friend? Yes. Of course. Even He stated that. But not only a friend & not merely a buddy or partner. It is the slave-friend relationship. Same as with brother, child, & sheep.