

3 John 13-15 In Person

1. The Absolute Need for Human Contact 13, 14

- A. There is More
- B. Face to Face

“Though I have much to write to you, I would rather not use paper and ink. Instead I hope to come to you and talk face to face, so that our joy may be complete.” -2 John 1:12 ESV

- C. The Promise in So Many New Testament Letters

“I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.” -Romans 15:29 ESV

“When Timothy comes, see that you put him at ease among you, for he is doing the work of the Lord, as I am. So let no one despise him. Help him on his way in peace, that he may return to me, for I am expecting him with the brothers. Now concerning our brother Apollos, I strongly urged him to visit you with the other brothers, but it was not at all his will to come now. He will come when he has opportunity.” -1 Corinthians 16:10-12 ESV

“So that you also may know how I am and what I am doing, Tychicus the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord will tell you everything. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage your hearts.” -Ephesians 6:21-22 ESV

“And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen. Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar’s household.” -Philippians 4:15-22 ESV

“Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him),” -Colossians 4:10 ESV

“All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all.” -Titus 3:15 ESV

“At the same time, prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping that through your prayers I will be graciously given to you.” -Philemon 1:22 ESV

2. God’s Design and How We Are Wired

- A. A God Initiative

Abraham

“But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, my friend;” -Isaiah 41:8 ESV

“Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. And Judah assembled to seek help from the Lord; from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord. And Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord, before the new court, and said, “O Lord, God of our fathers, are you not God in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you. Did you not, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel, and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend?” 2 Chronicles 20:3-7 ESV

“and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God.” James 2:23 ESV

”God’s love tells us that He is friendly and His Word assures us that He is our friend and wants us to be His friends. No man with a trace of humility would first think that he is a friend of God; but the idea did not originate with men. Abraham would never have said ‘I am God’s friend,’ but God Himself said that Abraham was His friend.” AW Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*

Moses

“Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses turned again into the camp, his assistant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent.” Exodus 33:11 ESV

“And he said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” And he said to him, “If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here.” -Exodus 33:14-15 ESV

Jesus

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) For from his

fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known." -John 1:14-18 ESV

"He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" -Revelation 22:20 ESV

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also." -John 14:3 ESV

B. The Church's Grace Initiative

"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you." -John 15:13-15 ESV

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." -Hebrews 10:23-25 ESV

"...that also clarifies the goal of all Christian community: they meet one another as bringers of the message of salvation. As such, God permits them to meet together and gives the community. Their fellowship is founded solely upon Jesus Christ and this 'alien righteousness'. All we can say, therefore is: the community of Christians springs solely from the Biblical and Reformation message of the justification of man through grace alone; this alone is the basis of the longing of Christians for one another."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*

"But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. And have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh." Jude 1:20-23 ESV

"Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more,"

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10 ESV

3. Peace to you 15

A. Our Peace Matters

"Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you." -2 Corinthians 13:11 ESV

"For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility" -Ephesians 2:14 ESV

B. Each. Person. Matters.

"...a Christian comes to others only through Jesus Christ. Among men there is strife. 'He is our peace' says Paul of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:14). Without Christ there is discord between God and man and between man and man. Christ became the Mediator and made peace with God and among men. Without Christ we should not know God, we could not call upon Him, nor come to Him. But without Christ we also would not know our brother, nor could we come to him. The way is blocked by our own ego. Christ opened the way to God and to our brother." Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*

Reflection: How do you participate in Christ's community, the church? How are the deep relationships bought for you by Christ's own blood being pursued by you?

Follow UP in the Word through the Week...

Monday: 1 Corinthians 16:10-12. Paul is signing off with some instructions about those who are coming to the Corinthians. What do you notice about these instructions? Why is it important for them to have personal interaction with each of these people?

Tuesday: James 2:23. Why is it such a big deal that Abraham was called a friend of God?

Wednesday: Exodus 33:14-15. What is so important about the presence of God to Moses? How would you explain the presence of God to someone else?

Thursday: John 1:14-18. Why is it so important that we believe that Jesus came in the flesh? How would you explain the "Incarnation" to someone else?

Friday: Hebrews 10:23-25. How are you putting this into practice in your life?

Saturday: 2 Corinthians 13:11. What are the commands in this verse and what is the promise? How are the two categories connected?