**love**actually

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Matthew 22:37-38 *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment.”*

Matthew 22:39-40 *“And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”*

*———*

*John 15:12-17 “This is My command: namely that you love one another just like I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this: that they lay down their life for their friend. 14 You are My friends if you do what I have commanded you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, because the servant does not know the affairs of the master, but you I have called friends, because all that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. 16 You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and appointed you that you should remain and bear fruit and your fruit remain, that anything you may ask of the Father in My name He will do. 17 This I command you, that you love one another.”*

*———*

A. vs. 12) Command: love one another as I have loved you.

 B. vs. 13) The ultimate act of love: complete selflessness.

 C. vs. 14) Friends obey.

 D. vs. 15a) You are friends of God.

 C’. vs. 15b) Friends enjoy intimacy.

 B’. vs. 16) The ultimate results of love: adoption.

A’. vs. 17) Command: that you love one another.

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***Friendship with God is demonstrated by our love for one another.***

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**Disciples repeat Jesus’ love.**

*12 “This is My command, namely that you love one another as even I have loved you.”*

*17 “This I command you, that you may love one another.”*

*———*

**Disciples receive Jesus’ love.**

*13 Greater love has no one than this, that anyone lay down his life on behalf of his friend.*

*16 You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you[[1]](#footnote-1) and appointed you that you should remain and bear fruit and your fruit remain, that anything you may ask of the Father in My name He will do.*

*———*

Romans 5:6-8 “*For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.* *For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—****but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us****.”*

*———*

*“****Others-firstness*** is only possible through ***God-firstness*** or else you will slide into ***me-firstness***.*”*

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**Disciples realize Jesus’ friendship.**

*14 You are My friends if you do that which I commanded you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, because the servant does not know the affairs of the master, but you I have called friends, that all that you hear from My Father I have made known to you.*

1. Wallace, 322. “The contrast between Jesus and the disciples is categorical: Election was accomplished by him, a point strengthened by the ἀλλά. A comparative contrast would mean, ‘You did not choose me as much as I chose you,’ but that is foreign to the context.” [↑](#footnote-ref-1)