

Far too many churches and denominations have been founded for reasons that were less than loving. Yet Jesus told His disciples that love among Christians would be the hallmark of those who follow Him. He gave His disciples a new name: He called them friends rather than servants. He also gave them a new command: As friends, they were to love one another.

If all followers of Jesus are His friends, that makes all followers of Jesus friends with one another. As mutual friends, love for one another is to be what separates Christians from the people of the world. So serious was Jesus about love for one another, that He said it would require laying down one's life for one's friends - which is what He did for His friends. (John 15:13) Do you have a friend who would lay down his or her life for you? Are you the kind of friend who would lay down your life? "Friend" is a covenant term in Scripture. (James 2:23) Under the old covenant, a true friend was closer than a blood brother. (Proverbs 18:24)

Be the kind of friend you would like to have, and also show unbelievers that you are a friend of Jesus.

John 13:35 "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."