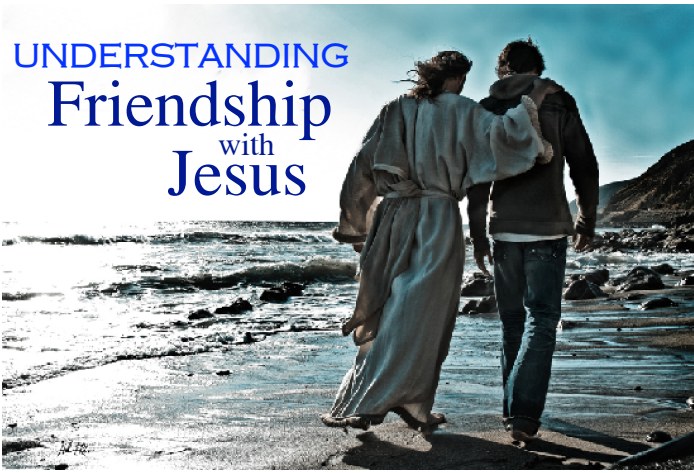


UNDERSTANDING Friendship with Jesus

Sunday, November 17, 2019



UNDERSTANDING *FRIENDSHIP WITH JESUS*

- FRIENDSHIP FACTS

- **7 Essential Qualities Of A Good Friend**

- 1. **Honest...**Among the traits of a best friend, honesty is easily one of the most significant. Your friends should tactfully tell you the truth, rather than lying to keep you happy in the short term.
 - 2. **Accepting...**Great friends are accepting, even when their lives diverge from your own. They will understand that your choices are your own, and see that what's right for them isn't necessarily right for you.
 - 3. **Low-Maintenance...**Your friend shouldn't need your attention every minute of the day, and should be able to understand that you have lots of commitments. One way to maximize your chances of creating low-maintenance friends is to seek out people with similar lifestyles.
 - 4. **Non-Judgmental...**You need friends who make you feel confident about who you are, not people who induce self-doubt. Indeed, a non-judgmental approach is also one of the characteristics of a good person more generally. Your friends should listen to you and do their best to put themselves in your shoes, even if means trying to relate to a very different belief system.
 - 5. **Loyal...**Loyalty is unquestionably one of the most important qualities of a good friend. You need to know that this person will stick by your side no matter what and that their commitment to you is not fickle.
 - 6. **Respectful...**Mutual respect is one of the most powerful traits of a good friendship, and a lack of it is a serious warning sign that you're entering into an abusive dynamic.
 - 7. **Trustworthy...**Never underestimate the importance of aspects of friendship that involve trust. Trustworthiness is about sticking to a certain set of moral principles that relate to honesty and respect. Friendships that are built on trust are usually long-lasting and deeply satisfying.
- According to a new survey by market research firm YouGov., 27 percent of millennials have no close friends, 25 percent have no "acquaintances" and 22 percent — or 1 in 5 — have no friends at all. This compares with only 9 percent of Baby Boomers and 15 percent of Gen Xers who reported having zero friends.
 - A third of the 20- and 30-somethings also reported feeling lonely often or always, compared with 20 percent of Gen Xers and 15 percent of boomers.



The difference between an acquaintance and a friend is the difference between talk and trust.
Pastor Rick Warren

- **GOD'S "FRIENDS"**

- **Old Testament**

- **Abraham**

- *But as for you, Israel my servant, Jacob my chosen one, descended from **Abraham my friend**.* (Is. 41:8 NLT-SE)
- *And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." **He was even called the friend of God.*** (James 2:23 NLT-SE)
- *O our God, did you not drive out those who lived in this land when your people Israel arrived? And did you not give this land forever to the descendants of **your friend Abraham**?* (2 Chr. 20:7 NLT-SE)

- **Moses**

- *Inside the Tent of Meeting, the LORD would speak to Moses face to face, **as one speaks to a friend**.* Afterward Moses would return to the camp, but the young man who assisted him, Joshua son of Nun, would remain behind in the Tent of Meeting. (Ex. 33:11 NLT-SE)

- **David**

- *But now your kingdom must end, for the LORD has sought out **a man after his own heart**. The LORD has already appointed him to be the leader of his people, because you have not kept the LORD's command.* (1 Sam. 13:14 NLT-SE)
- *But God removed Saul and replaced him with David, a man about whom God said, 'I have found David son of Jesse, **a man after my own heart. He will do everything I want him to do.**'* (Acts 13:22 NLT-SE)
- **David won such favor** with God that God decided to call His Son the Son of David forever!

- **Enoch**

- ²³ *Enoch lived 365 years, ²⁴ **walking in close fellowship with God**. Then one day he disappeared, because God took him.* (Gen. 5:23-24 NLT-SE)
- *It was by faith that Enoch was taken up to heaven without dying—"he disappeared, because God took him." For before he was taken up, **he was known as a person who pleased God**.* (Heb. 11:5 NLT-SE)

- **Job**

- ² *I long for the years gone by when God took care of me, ³ when he lit up the way before me and I walked safely through the darkness. ⁴ When I was in my prime, **God's friendship was felt in my home**.* (Job 29:2-4 NLT-SE)

- **New Testament**

- **Followers of Jesus** (John 15:1-17)

- **Choose which "vine" you will attach yourself to...** *I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener.* (John 15:1 NLT-SE)
 - "Do NOT plug yourself into a religious system!
 - Worldly or religious vines (family, marriage, children, career, social belonging, pleasure, possessions, control, independence, recognition, political ethnic, national, etc.) will not bear the kind of fruit you want.
 - Do you know what your source is? Do you know where you receive the power you need to get the fruit you want? Jesus says, "Be very careful."

The Vine	Jesus
The Gardner	The Father
The Branches	Friends of Jesus
The Fruit	The result of an intimate friendship with Jesus

- **We don't live into the vine, the Vine lives into us...** *Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.* (John 15:5 NLT-SE)

- We live from the vine, from the Word of God, from the body and blood of Christ, from the tireless work of the Spirit, new every morning. ~ Fleming Rutledge

- **Remaining or abiding in the vine is about relationship...**⁹ *I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love.* (John 15:9 NLT-SE)

- God never tells us to build our relationship with him on how we feel about him. We cannot build our acceptance based upon our performance.
- Dr. David Benner did a study asking people, "What do you think is the first thing that comes into God's mind when he thinks of you?" The majority of the people would answer, "Disappointed." But that's simply not what the bible teaches. *The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives.* (Psa. 37:23 NLT-SE)

- **Remain in my love and enjoy my friendship...**¹⁴ **You are my friends if you do what I command.** ¹⁵ *I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. **Now you are my friends**, since I have told you everything the Father told me.* ¹⁶ *You didn't choose me. **I chose you**. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.* ¹⁷ *This is my command: Love each other.* (John 15:12-17 NLT-SE)

- If you think it's all about performance, you have the mentality of a servant who doesn't know what God wants, but now that you know that what he wants is for you to remain in his love and enjoy his friendship, you come into his presence because you know all he wants is for you to be present with him! ~ Jon Tyson

- **Practically speaking, one way to remain in him is to let his words remain in you...** *But if you remain in me and **my words remain in you**, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!* (John 15:7 NLT-SE)

- Most people think that godliness comes from accumulating information about God. Truth be told, those who really experience deep relationship with God have meditated, feasted, digested and delighted in his word...² *They delight in the law of the LORD, meditating on it day and night.* ³ *They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.* (Psa. 1:2-3 NLT-SE)

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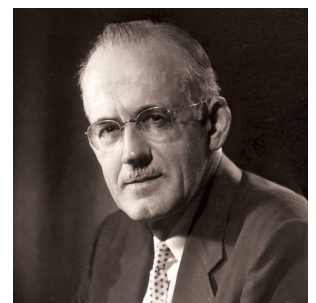
- **Not just the disciples, but "All who will ever believe..."** ¹⁸ *"Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world.* ¹⁹ *And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth.* ²⁰ *I am praying **not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message.**"* (John 17:18-20 NLT-SE)

- WHO IS BEFRIENDING WHOM?

- Come near to the holy men and women of the past and you will soon feel the heat of their desire after God. They mourned for Him, they prayed and wrestled and sought for Him day and night, in season and out, and when they had found Him the finding was all the sweeter for the long seeking. ~ A.W. Tozer



Jon Tyson, Church of the City - New York



A. W. Tozer, The Pursuit of God

- **Jesus came after us, we didn't pursue him with friendship in mind...**¹⁵ *I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. **Now you are my friends**, since I have told you everything the Father told me.*
¹⁶ *You didn't choose me. **I chose you.*** (John 15:15–16 NLT-SE)
- *Your priestly lovers, those You've chosen, **will be greatly favored to be brought close to You!** What inexpressible joys are theirs! What feasts of mercy fill them in Your heavenly sanctuary! How satisfied we will be just to be near You!* (Ps 65:4 TPT)
- The difference between servants and friends are that servants obtain favor by what they do, **friends obtain favor purely by relationship.**

- MY RECENT JOURNEY

- **This Summer: The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit**...changed the way I look at and relate to Holy Spirit. If Jesus needed the Holy Spirit to function here on earth, so do I!
- **Chris Davis:** Spoke prophetically over Evangel on Sunday, Oct. 20th
 - A season of "**Hiddenness**" is coming...not hiddenness *from* God, but hiddenness *for* God!
 - This hiddenness provides a context for discovering and growing in **Friendship with Jesus**
 - On Oct. 22 started: John Whoolley's book, **The Friendship of Jesus and God's Secret** (finished on Nov. 4)
- **Sickness Strikes:** Came down with a kidney Infection on Oct. 30th...**bad news, but good news?**

- COMMUNION, BY TRIBL FT. STEFFANY GRETZINGER & BETHEL MUSIC

[Verse 1]

Take me back to the garden

Lead me be back to moment I heard Your voice

Take me back to communion

Lead me back to the moment I saw Your face

[Pre-Chorus]

It was all so simple, it was easy to love

No space between us, it was easy to trust

[Chorus]

You are closer, closer than my skin

You are in the air I'm breathing in

Here's is where the dead things

Come back to living

I feel my heart beating again

Feels so good to know You are my friend

[Verse 2]

This is the Garden, here in the place I find you close

This is communion, here in the place I'm fully known

[Pre-Chorus]

[Chorus]

[Bridge]

This is where I'm meant to be, me and You and You and me

I don't have to prove a thing, You've already approved of me

- SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

- **SLOW DOWN!**...*In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength.* (Is. 30:15 NIV)
 - The solution to an overbusy life is not more time. It's to **slow down** and **simplify** our lives around what really matters. ~ John Mark Comer
- **ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR HELP**...Again, if Jesus needed the Holy Spirit to empower him to accomplish his assignment here on earth, what makes us think we can accomplish **anything** apart from the enabling power of the Spirit of God?
 - What we need is an awareness of the Spirit of God that allows us to develop an intimacy with God that is not based on him using us in ministry. ~ Bill Johnson
- **BE INTENTIONAL**...Figure out what matters most and give yourself to that thing. Promise yourself that building a Friendship with Jesus is going to be your **top priority**.
 - You need the certainty of My loving Presence in order to weather the storms of life. During times of severe testing, even the best theology can fail you if it isn't accompanied by experiential knowledge of Me. The ultimate protection against sinking during life's storms is **devoting time to develop your friendship with Me**. ~ Jesus Calling, Dec. 1
- **HEIGHTEN YOUR AWARENESS**...The Presence of God is the central fact of Christianity. At the heart of the Christian message is God Himself waiting for His redeemed children to push in to **conscious awareness of His Presence**. ~ A. W. Tozer
- **HOW CAN I BE FOR YOU TODAY, JESUS?** (As opposed to, "What can I do for you?" Instead, "What kind of friend do you want me to be for you today?")
 - Thoughtful
 - Tender-hearted
 - Patient/present
 - Insightful/discerning
 - Honorable
 - Fearless/trusting
 - Wise
 - Aware
 - Generous/kind