

Friendship:

A noble & virtuous attachment to a person, stemming from intimate acquaintance, and a reciprocation of this attachment.

Friendship differs from Benevolence
= General good will to mankind

Friendship: Be genuine, take off the mask with, Honest, vulnerable.

American Society of Sociology Study:
Ave American has only 1 true friend.

Assume we are more connected B/c of Social Media.
The Reverse is the result. We are LESS Connected.
We as a society feel more disconnected, lonely, isolated.
Leads to Depression, Discouragement, Anxiety

What does the bible have to say about *Friendship*?

How does it apply to us today?

200 in church here today in 2 services
We Come, We Greet, We check our kids in,
We Sing, We Pray, We sit under the preaching,
We go home & still feel disconnected and alone.

What does the bible have to say about *Friendship*?

We talk allot about Doctrine, Theology, the Gospel

But What about Friendship?

(Gen 1:1) God was Alone.

Some Believe God was Lonely.

That would mean God had a need, NOT TRUE.

He is in community with the members of the Godhead.

In the Trinity we see the Friendship of God.

1 God, 3 persons,

Mutual relationship, adoration, worship, Community

God the Father is Friends with the Son

God the Son is Friends with the Holy Spirit

God the Holy Spirit is Friends with God the Father.

I. God created Man 1st in Friendship with Him: (Gen 1:26)

God wanted someone to Share His perfect Friendship with.
(Gen 3:8) God would Walk & Talk with them Daily.

II. God created Man 2nd in Friendship with other People.

(Gen 2:18a) All the Creation was Very Good,
“*It is not good that the man should be alone;*”

Mankind is Unique in this.

The Plant kingdom does not need Friendship.

The Celestial Kingdom does not need friendship.

The Animal Kingdom does not need Friendship.

“*Dogs are man’s best friend.*”

Gods plan for your friend is NOT one that is covered in Fur and Licks itself.

(Gen 1:27) “*Male and Female*”

(Gen 2:18b, 21-24) 1st Human Friendship is Marriage

If we are made to be in friendship with God and people, why is it so hard to have friends? - SIN

(Gen 3:17-19) Man sinned & broke the Friendship with God.

(Gen 3:16) Man sinned & broke the Friendship with his Spouse.

“thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.”

This is why it is hard to make friends.

People have sinned against us & broken the Friendship.

Lies, Cheat, Steal, Betrayal, Gossip.

Sin makes it hard for us to put ourselves out there.

To take off the mask, to be open & Genuine.

It's hard for Others B/c of Our sin of devaluing others.

Illus: have you ever had a friendship where you were the majority shareholder?

You were doing most of the work in the Friendship?

You were more of a Friend to them than they were to you?

God Must feel that way sometimes too.

God initiates Reconciliation:

(Gen 3:21) Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

(Gen 12:1-3) God Initiates Friendship w/ Abraham

God put himself out there

(Gen 15:6) And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

(James 2:23) & the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, & it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

(2 Chron 20:7) “Abraham thy friend”

God Initiated Friendship with Moses.

(Ex 3:4) And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.

(Ex 33:11) And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.

(Ex 33:18) Moses: “I beseech thee, shew me thy glory”

God Initiates Friendship with us:

(Jn 6:44) No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him:

Jesus: The Greatest Friend of Man

(Lk 19:10)

(Jn 15:13) Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Jesus calls us his Friends

(Jn 15:14-15) Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called

you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

I. God created Man 1st in Friendship with Him:

God wanted someone to Share His perfect Friendship with.

(Gen 3:8) God would Walk & Talk with them Daily.

(Matt 22:36-38) *Master, which is the great commandment in the law? 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment.*

Are You In God's Family?

It requires Repentance from our sin.
Belief in who He IS, & What He Said.

Are you God's Friend? There is a difference.

How do I become a friend of God?

1st: Join the Family.

Repent of your Sin:

Believe the Gospel:

(Jn 3:36) Belief that Depends on His blood to save you.

2nd: Believe what He says: (Heb 11:6)

Your Friendship with God will manifest as Obedience.

(Jn 15:14) *Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.*

How is your Friendship with God?

Our Disobedience Breaks the Friendship with God.

(Is 59:1-2) *Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: 2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.*

The Interaction between you & God in this friendship the Bible calls Fellowship.

How is your Fellowship with God?

Has it been broken by our sin?

YES! The Repent & Fix it! (1 Jn 1:9)

Jesus calls us Friends if we Believe Him & Obey Him.

II. God created Man 2nd in to be in Friendship with other People.

(Matt 22:39-40) *And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*

This is God's Purpose for Us!

Illus: The Sign of the Cross:

2 Relationships: Vertical & Horizontal

(1 Jn 1:3) *That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.*

Fellowship is the interaction between Friends
Mutual Affection

Enjoyment of their presence
Participation of his Happiness.

A Vertical Relationship designed for Friendship.

The Friendly Interaction is called Fellowship.

Mutual Affection
Enjoyment of their presence
Participation of his Happiness.

A Horizontal Relationship designed for Friendship.

The Friendly Interaction is called Fellowship.

Mutual Affection
Enjoyment of their presence
Participation of their Happiness.

These 2 are Connected:

You can be in God's Family but not in Friendship with Him:

(1 Jn 1:6) *If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:*

We are to be in Close Friendship with God.
When we are not in Fellowship (**Broken Friendship**) with God vertically, it is hard to in fellowship with God's Children Horizontally.

You can be in God's Family but not in Friendship with His other Children:

If we are not in Fellowship (Broken Friendship) Horizontally with God's Other Children, we are NOT in Fellowship with God vertically.

The HOME:

You are in a Relationship, But are your Friends?
What kind of Fellowship are you having?

Mutual Affection
Enjoyment of their presence
Participation of their Happiness.

(Matt 22:39-40) *And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*

The People in your family are your closest Neighbors.
Spouse & Kids.

How Do I Fix My Family Friendships?

Repent of our Sin against each Other.

Our lack of Selfless Godly love.
Our Stinginess with our Goodness to Others.

(Matt 5:24) *go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.*

Forgive: (Mark 11:25-26) *And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. 26 But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.*

"You don't know what they did to me." Jesus does.

Jesus is very familiar with Betrayal.

(Zechariah 13:6) *And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.*

Jesus is familiar with Lies, Hatred, Violence,

“I Don’t Want to Forgive!”

Now you are picking a fight with God.

We are Not OK with God if We are Not OK with each other.

The Local NT Church:

Our Church is supposed to be a Family of Friends:

You can be a member of God’s family, but not friends with His Children.

WHY? - BECAUSE OF SIN!

We Sin against each other.

Our Interaction, or the Lack of Interaction with each other Devalues The Other Person.

We are Not OK with each other if We are Not OK with God
We are Not OK with God if We are Not OK with each other.
WHY?

Jesus takes our Treatment of Others Personally.
(Matt 25:33-46)

How Do I Make Friends?

Obey God and Join the Church.

Obey God and Be Faithful to Church.

Obey God and Intentionally Interact with your Brothers & Sisters @ church in a Positive, uplifting way.

(Put Yourself out there by Faith)

(Prov 18:24) *A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly:*

Obey God and Be Faithful to Church Especially in times of trouble.

(Prov 18:24) *A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.*

(Proverbs 17:17) A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

How Do I Fix My Friendships?

10 Words to fix any relationship!

Repent of your Sins against each Other.

Our lack of Selfless Godly love.

Our Stinginess with our Goodness to Others.

Forgive: (Eph 4:22-32)

Jesus is the Friend Everybody Needs:

We Need Friendship with Jesus b/c of our Past: (Rom 5:8)

We Need Friendship with Jesus b/c of our Present:

(1 Jn 2:1) *My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:*

We need His help/Encouragement every day:

(Matt 11:28-29) *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

We Need Friendship with Jesus b/c of our Future:

We Will be in Eternal Friendship with Christ.

Living with Christ: (Jn 14:1-3)

We Will be in Eternal Friendship with Each Other.

Sitting at His Table, Fellowshiping with each other for all eternity.

(Lk 22:28-30) Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations. 29 And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; 30 That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, ...