

C2:7 Personal Growth

Part 5 – Relationship

The Bond of Friendship

How we describe our relationship with Jesus: “Jesus is my _____.”

In John 15 Jesus refers to his relationship with the disciples as one of

FRIENDSHIP.

Five “T’s” that bind our friendship:

1) **TALK with** (not just “to”) Jesus. Prayer = expressing our thoughts/feelings/desires to Him.

Bible study = understanding His thoughts about Himself/us/others. This is a **major evidence** of Jesus’ friendship. John 15:15

We are privileged to have been given in writing the thoughts, plans, and desires of the Creator of the universe. 1 Cor. 2:12

2) **THINK** about Jesus. Col. 3:1-2, 17 Do all **IN THE NAME** of the Lord Jesus

- We have His **PERSPECTIVE.**
- We have His **PRIORITIES.**
- We have His **POWER/AUTHORITY.**

3) **TRUST** His Father.

- His **WISDOM.** Prov. 3:5
- His **AWARENESS.** 1 Pet. 5:7
- His **WILL.** 1 John 3:2 cf. 1 Thess. 4:3, Phil. 1:6

*God wants us to become **more and more** like Jesus. He wants us to become **more like Jesus more than** we want to become **more like Jesus.***

4) **TELL** others about Him. Matt. 28:19-20, Col. 1:28, 1 Pet. 3:15-16
Keep Jesus as your best friend and you will constantly need to be ready to give a gentle and respectful explanation for why you continue to have a positive outlook, a clean conscious and godly lifestyle.

The more we look like our best friend, Jesus, the less we will need to say. But the more we will need to say it.

5) **TREAT** the brethren (and “sistren”).

The major evidence of **our** friendship with Jesus is that we do what He tells us to do. John 15:9-14, 13:34-35

The #1 command of Jesus: **LOVE ONE ANOTHER.**

Love = putting the best interest of someone else ahead of your own, even if it hurts you. 1 Cor. 13:4

Jesus! What a friend for sinners
Jesus, lover of my soul
Friends may fail me, foes assail me
He, my savior, makes me whole

Jesus! What a help in sorrow
While the billow over me roll
Even when my heart is breaking, loving
He, my Comfort, helps my soul

Hallelujah! What a savior
Hallelujah! What a friend
Saving, helping, keeping,
He is with me to the end

Auburn Grace Community Church – July 26th, 2020

Life Group Discussion Questions – July 26, 2020

John 15:15 *I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.*

QUICK REVIEW

1. In your own words, what is the meaning or purpose of prayer? If someone were to tell you, “I don’t know how to pray,” how would you respond?
2. Read Acts 10:1-2. What is continual, devoted prayer? It’s not uncommon for a believer to have a day that is full of engaging prayer, only to find the next day all but void of prayer. Why do you think that is?

MY STORY

1. Describe your past or present closest human friendship. What characteristics make it strong and enduring?
2. Who is one person you think God put into your life for a reason (and what is that reason?)? Who is one person you would like to be closer to? How come?
3. You have a much older friend who is a mature believer and has been walking with Jesus for a long time. What things can this friend learn from YOU?

GOING DEEP

1. Read John 13:34-35. Why is it so noticeable when Christians demonstrate love for one another? How is it so different that it marks us as disciples of Jesus? What are some examples of this Christian love for one another?
2. Read Proverb 18. It’s the wisdom in getting along with others. Referencing the passage, what are some of the traits you notice in a Godly friend? Do you have one such earthly companion? Regarding v. 24, what’s the problem with having too many friends?
3. What is one goal you have to strengthen your relationship with God? How will you know you’ve accomplished your goal? Who will keep you motivated to do this?
4. The friendship we enjoy with Jesus is meant to be shared by loving others. What do you think is the best way to show the love of Christ to a stranger? What specific ways will you reach out to love others in friendship this week (in particular, those who are more difficult to love)?

PUTTING IT TOGETHER:

1. What do you think are some of the challenges to living out each point?
2. Which of the above teaching points are most important for you to remember?



KNOW IT

Relationship: Taking the initiative to have communion with Him, God reveals Himself to us by various means. We are then spiritually awakened, delighting in uniting with Him

Psalm 42:1

As the deer pants for the water brooks,
So my soul pants for You, O God.

Psalm 46:10

“Cease striving and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”

John 13:34-35

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Romans 12:1

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

LIVE IT

What are the signs of a healthy, intimate relationship?

Do you see these qualities in your relationship with God?

What could you do to improve your relationship with God?
