

BEING A FRIEND

Christian Character in Action: Lesson 13

20 May 2022

Doctrine: factual matters from the bible which affect our thinking.

Sound Doctrine: Our use of biblical facts in practice as we live our daily lives. The heart is involved.

3 John 1:14 The importance of developing friendships in a local church and in the body of Christ is evident in this verse. Friendship implies that we care for and enjoy the company of each other. Much more can be accomplished when our heart is invested in the people we fellowship with.

Prov 17:17 **“A friend loveth at all times...”** We will “Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep” (Rom 12:15) because we love and care for one another. **“All times”** includes sickness or health, richer or poorer, better or worse, good times or bad times.

Prov 18:24 **“A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly...”** Remember that all people love and care about themselves. If you want to make a friend, it is important to listen to what others want to say. If you talk about yourself all the time, you are not showing care for others.

- Tip: don't go looking for someone who will be friendly to you. Look for someone that you can be friendly to.
- Aim to be someone that others can depend on to be there when they need a friend.

“...and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.” This verse is not referring to Jesus Christ, but it certainly makes us think of Him. He is the One who knows us the best and yet loves us the most.

Mat 27:3 Judas Iscariot is recorded as being the betrayer of Jesus Christ.

Mat 26:45-50 **“Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come?”** Jesus doesn't lie. When He called Judas “friend,” he meant it. A friend loveth at all times.

- Friendship is more important than winning arguments or proving we're right.
 - A church will fail if it is filled with people who say, *“What can you do for me?”*
 - A church will succeed and thrive when everyone is looking for ways to be a help.
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People Who Were Commended for Being a Help in the Ministry:

Rom 16:1-2 **Phebe:** “...she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also.”

Succour: See a need, run to aid, hasten to assist.

Rom 16:6 **Mary:** “...who bestowed much labour on us.” The Holy Spirit saved a place in the bible to show us that our labours for others are not done in vain. They matter.

Rom 16:9 **Urbane:** “...our helper in Christ.” Helping is an important part of every ministry. How does helping show that you are a friend? Because a helper wants to lighten your load.

1 Cor 16:15-18 **Stephanus and Fortunatus and Achaicus:** “For they have refreshed my spirit and yours.” A word of encouragement is an important part of the ministry.

Eph 6:21-22 **Tychicus:** “a beloved brother—and faithful minister in the Lord.” What did he do? He traveled from church to church, keeping everyone updated on the progress and prayer needs of the other churches (like a missionary letter). This provided comfort to all. That’s what friends do.

Php 4:15-18 **Epaphroditus:** he was a faithful treasurer. He made sure that ALL the money donated by the Philippian believers got to the intended recipients.

Col 4:12 **Epaphras:** “always labouring fervently for you in prayers.” The prayers of God’s saints are an important part of any church. Are you a friend? Are you praying for your friends?

1 Pet 5:12 **Silvanus:** “a faithful brother.” A church can accomplish much if it has faithful people that can be depended upon to be there when needed.
