

Topic: Relationships

Title: Friendship

- I. Introduction: Those who are chosen by God to be disciples have a responsibility to make wise choices in all areas of life but especially in friendships.
  - A. Proverbs 18: 1 tells us: "A man (woman) who isolates himself seeks his OWN desire; he rages against all wise judgment (sound wisdom)."
  - B. James 4: 4 "Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God."
  
- II. **As disciples we have a responsibility to choose to be friendly:**
  - A. Proverbs 18: 24 "A man (woman) who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother (Jesus)."
  - B. John 16: 24 "This is my commandment, that you love one another that your JOY may be full." Friendships can be a source of great joy.
  
- III. **As disciples we have a responsibility to choose our friends wisely.**
  - A. Proverbs 12: 26 "The righteous should choose his friends carefully, for the way of the wicked leads them astray."
  - B. I Corinthians 15: 33 "Bad company corrupts good morals."
  
- IV. **As disciples we have a responsibility to not compare friend with friend, but to love one another.**
  - A. II Corinthians 10: 12-16 "For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. <sup>13</sup> We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but within the limits of the sphere which God appointed us—a sphere which especially includes you. <sup>14</sup> For we are not overextending ourselves (as though *our authority* did not extend to you), for it was to you that we came with the gospel of Christ; <sup>15</sup> not boasting of things beyond measure, *that is*, in other men's labors, but having hope, *that* as your faith is increased, we shall be greatly enlarged by you in our sphere, <sup>16</sup> to preach the gospel in the *regions* beyond you, *and* not to boast in another man's sphere of accomplishment.
  - B. I Corinthians 12: 12-18 "<sup>12</sup> For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also *is* Christ. <sup>13</sup> For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. <sup>14</sup> For in fact the body is not one member but many.  
<sup>15</sup> If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? <sup>16</sup> And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? <sup>17</sup> If the whole body *were* an eye, where *would be* the hearing? If the whole *were* hearing, where *would be* the

smelling? <sup>18</sup> But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.

- V. As disciples, we have a responsibility to prefer one another above ourselves and to reveal ourselves to one another as the Holy Spirit leads.

- A. Philippians 2: 2-3; Romans 14:1 and Romans 15: 1

- B. John 15: 15-18 “<sup>15</sup> No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. <sup>17</sup> These things I command you, that you love one another.