

Bible Studies

A Question of Friendship



Read John 15v12-15

**What does Jesus call us?
What is the difference?**

**What else could he have called us?
How did Jesus show us His Friendship?**

When Jesus calls us friends, it creates a level of intimacy with us, it suggests that He takes us into His confidence, it defines the kind of relationship Jesus wants with us. Jesus friendship for us was not only in words, it's ultimate expression was found in his death for us.

Jesus is a friend. The way he lived showed friendship. The Pharisees accused Jesus of being the friend of sinners, not the acquaintance of sinners. Three expressions of love

v9a The father love me v9b I love You v12 Love each other

From this we can see an order of friendship that God has given us; friendship with God, friendship with each other and if we are to follow Jesus example, friendship with sinners. *Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. 1 John 4v7*

Why do we need friends?

God made us social creatures.



What happens if you are isolated from other people?

It has been claimed that to maintain mental health you need contact with 8 people every day. We need other people around us. Consequently friendships add stability to life.



Friendship takes away the pain of loneliness.

This is only achieved when people take a genuine interest in other people.



Friendship adds texture to life.

It brings fulfilment, joy, fun, excitement and relaxation.



We need friends for practical, emotional and spiritual reasons.

On a physical level sometimes you need someone's help. Emotionally you may need a shoulder to cry on or a person to encourage you. Spiritually you may need a mentor or someone who can speak into your life.



Because we are made in God's image.

Friendship is an attribute of God and He made us like him. Job 29v4, Isaiah 41v8

If someone says "I don't need friends". how would you reply? Is it true?



What is a friend?

Someone you trust and love.

Someone you like to be with.

Someone you can talk to.

Someone you can depend on.

Someone you support and stand up for.

Someone you feel comfortable with.

Someone you want to spend time with.

Someone you can be honest & intimate with.

Someone you can laugh and cry with.

We associate love & intimacy with romantic relationships, are they found in friendships?

One of the things that stands in the way of friendship is that everyone has a different view of what a friend should be. This view is based on a person's own needs. A friend is someone who meets my needs.

Is this a realistic view of friendship? What will happen if you hold this view?

There are different levels of friendship. They range from people you say hello to, acquaintances, to best friends who you open your heart to. Strong friendships grow, they do not develop overnight. People move from acquaintances to best friends. If the friendship builds too fast it can create pressure that the new friendship cannot sustain. One of the reasons for a lack of friendship is that people want a best friend, but they cannot be bothered to form acquaintances.

Seldom set foot in your neighbour's house—too much of you, and he will hate you. Proverbs 25v17

How does this relate to friendship?



How do you make friends?

A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. Proverbs 18v24 KJV

What does this mean? If you are not friendly what is going to happen?

Are you friendly? If you want a friend, be a friend. You have to reach out, don't let fear of rejection or failure inhibit you, just be yourself.



