

Rightly Related – 2

One of the greatest gifts God has given us is people

Great relationships are a sign of a flourishing life but they don't come by chance

Sadly, we live in a world filled with broken relationships

- Broken marriages
- Failed friendships
- Family fall-outs
- Bitter business partnerships

The principles that you sow into a relationship will determine what you reap

The Bible speaks about marriage, friendship, parenting, employer relations, how to treat others and have a great relationship with God

John 15:13–15 (NKJV)

¹³ Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. ¹⁵ 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.

Relationships are fostered by sacrifice, obedience to Christ and open, honest communication

Colossians 3:18–4:6 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.

²⁰ Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

²¹ Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

²² Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. ²³ And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. ²⁵ But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

4 Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven. ² Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; ³ meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, ⁴ that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. ⁵ Walk in wisdom toward those *who are* outside, redeeming the time. ⁶ Let your speech always *be* with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

Proverbs 18:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ A man *who has* friends must himself be friendly

Many people never attract others into their lives because their attitude is more about what they can get rather than what they can give

They miss out in the blessing of true friendship

Just as we need to make deposits in a bank before we can make a withdrawal we must invest in our relationships

Jesus demonstrated His love by giving His life for us

He may have been betrayed by Judas and Peter may have denied Him three times, but that didn't sway Him

A friend is someone who you love and from whom you receive love

The Greek and Latin word for friend is – ('philos' and 'amicus')

Proverbs 17:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ A friend loves at all times,
And a brother is born for adversity.

Loyalty and love are attributes of true friends

In season and out of season

They are the ones who rejoice with you as well as weep with you

Romans 12:15, 16 (NLT)

¹⁵ Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep.

¹⁶ Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!

- The strength of a good friendship that goes the distance is that it has unconditional love
- They will believe in you no matter what
- In the midst of busybodies or gossip
- They are committed to seeing you meet your potential

A true friend is one who will take you forward and build you up

They are committed to your destiny

Proverbs 13:20 (NKJV)

20 He who walks with wise *men* will be wise

Birds of a feather flock together

Like minded people gravitate towards one another

Negativity breeds negativity

The reality is that the mentality and attitude of those you hang around with will eventually rub off on you

Psalms 101:3 (NKJV)

³ I will set nothing wicked before my eyes;
I hate the work of those who fall away;
It shall not cling to me.

Proverbs 27:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ *As iron sharpens iron,
So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.*

Not everyone who appears friendly is a friend
Satan himself is disguised as an angel of light

Just because someone is the life of the party doesn't mean
they're going to be a faithful friend

Just because someone initially makes us comfortable does
not mean they are a friend to our destiny in God

What rubs off on you will affect your future

In the same way that the spirit of your friends rubs off on
you, so their counsel may cause you to make either good or
bad decisions

Proverbs 27:6 (NLT)

⁶ *Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many
kisses from an enemy.*

A friend will have the courage to be truthful to you, but
will always have your best interests at heart

Others may flatter you with compliments *usually to gain
advantage*

A true friend will balance encouragement and honesty

Jude 16 (NLT)

¹⁶ These people are grumblers and complainers, living only to satisfy their desires. They brag loudly about themselves, and they flatter others to get what they want.

Be careful:

“The same people you allow to build you up *through flattery* will be the same ones that will tear you down”

Job endured much suffering as well as the negativity of a nagging wife and some so-called friends, *comforters*

Even though his friends may have been well-meaning they seemed to be more concerned with having all of the answers

Usually people with all of the answers are more concerned with being heard than helping you¹

Corinthians 8:2 (NLT)

² Anyone who claims to know all the answers doesn't really know very much.

A true friend will be honest and compassionate and point you in the direction of the ONE who has all of the answers

There may be times when the counsel of the Lord may not seem to be that friendly or favorable towards your circumstance

He will always point out areas in life we need to address in order to move forward

Proverbs 18:24 (NLT)

²⁴ There are “friends” who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother.

A true friend will endure anything. Not only will these friends give good counsel, but when the friendship is tested, they come through for you without fail

- Trust is a key element in such relationships, but trust isn't gained overnight
- Sorry to say many people don't stick it out during the rough times that gain trust
 - *this is hard to do if you have a personal agenda in gaining the friendship*
- At the first sight of friction they bolt

It's always sad when *life-long* friends have a falling out. Many times they run to someone that will listen to all of the garbage they want to spew about this person.

The Bible warns us about those things that can break friendships:

Proverbs 16:28 (NLT)

²⁸ A troublemaker plants seeds of strife; gossip separates the best of friends.

Proverbs 17:9 (NLT)

⁹ Love prospers when a fault is forgiven, but dwelling on it separates close friends.

When you are building life-long relationships your best friend may be privileged to know some intimate details about your life

If he or she shared those secrets with someone else you would feel completely betrayed

Then when that third party thinks on those things it can drive a wedge between them and the person that was betrayed

Even if the two friends work it out the person who heard the gossip may be unaware of the reconciliation and remain caught up in the offense of another

Guard your most precious friendships and never take them for granted

Friendship is not a trivial relationship but adds to the fullness of a *Blessed Life*

Let's face it; friends make life a lot more fun"
– Charles Swindoll

Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet

John 13:1 (NLT)

Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now **he loved them to the very end.***