

Introduction → Jesus as the example and demonstration of Friendship

A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.
Proverbs 18:24

Mindset → Jesus' mindset

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, **leaving you an example, so that you might** follow in his steps. He committed no sin, **neither was deceit found in his mouth**. When he was reviled, **he did not revile in return**; when **he suffered, he did not threaten**, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. **By his wounds you have been healed**. 1 Peter 2:21-24

No, not at all, for we have already shown that all people, whether Jews or Gentiles, are under the power of sin. As the Scriptures say, **“No one is righteous—not even one**. Romans 3:9-10

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.
Romans 3:23

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us **while we were still sinners**.
Romans 5:8

“Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends. Revelation 3:20

Becoming Friends

I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy...! John 15:11

You are my friends if you do what I command. **I no longer call you slaves**, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. **Now you are my friends**, since I have told you everything the Father told me. John 15:14-15

Doulos - slave, devoted to another to the disregard of one's own interests

Philos-a friend, someone dearly loved (or prized) in a personal intimate way, a trusted confidant, one held dear in a close bond of personal affection

Not a warrior or a conqueror but a **well known friend**.

On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name. 'But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.' Matthew 7:22-23

Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. Mark 8:34

If anyone is ashamed of me and my message in these adulterous and sinful days, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." Mark 8:38
My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. **I do not treat the grace of God as meaningless**. For if keeping the law could make us right with God, then there was no need for Christ to die. Galatians 2:20-21

Being Friends, a real friend

³⁷ Jesus replied, "You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as

yourself. 'The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.' Matthew 22:37-40

I want them to be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love. I want them to have complete confidence that they understand God's mysterious plan, which is Christ himself. In him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Colossians 2:2

Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. Colossians 3:13-16

³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. ³² Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you. Ephesians 4:31-32

Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are lazy. Encourage those who are timid. Take tender care of those who are weak. Be patient with everyone. 1 Thessalonians 5:14

Limits of Friendship

I meant that you are not to associate with anyone who claims to be a believer yet indulges in sexual sin, or is greedy, or worships idols, or is abusive, or is a drunkard, or cheats people. Don't even eat with such people. 1 Corinthians 5:11

¹⁴ Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness?... As God said: "I will live in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they will be my people." ¹⁷ Therefore, come out from among unbelievers, and separate yourselves from them, says the LORD. 2 Corinthians 6:14-17

¹⁷ Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. ¹⁸ Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. Romans 12:17-18

Examining Your Friendships... with Jesus and others

Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! 2 Corinthians 13:5