

**Topical Message**  
**Biblical Friendship**  
**Pastor Mac**

KAPONO: Would bow your heads and join me in a word of prayer? Whoo, Lord, what a time that we can come together, Lord, in this beautiful place that You have so generously and graciously blessed us with, Lord,

[ Congregant says, "Yes." ]

with our fellow brothers and sisters to worship and proclaim who You are in Spirit and in truth, Lord. Would You bless this time, Lord, and bless the teaching?

Lord, would You lift up Pastor Mac and his family and Pastor Leitu and his family as well as they stand up here and deliver You word, Lord? Give them courage. Continue to give them strength, Lord, that wherever it is that they are, bless our understanding today in their word. We pray in Jesus' name.

PASTOR MAC: Peace. Amen. Praise the Lord. Please be seated. Well, good morning, my fellow saints, and sinners.

[ Laughter ]

Huh?

[ Congregant says, "Yes." ]

Can't forget that piece. We love the saint part, don't we? But we all are sinners.

On behalf of Pastor JD Farag, we welcome you here at Calvary Kaneohe to our livestreamed service on this Sunday morning. Those of you who are visiting for the first time, a special welcome and pray that you've been blessed by all the warm love here and fellowship that you receive from your fellow brothers sisters in Christ.

I do want to remind everyone about our prayer meeting coming up this Tuesday, be held here in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.

And if you're able, please come and let us pray together as a family. We really need prayer in these dark and devilish and evil times. And by all accounts, they won't get any better. So again, if you're able to come, come so we can all pray.

On Sundays we have two services. The First Service is normally dedicated to the Prophecy Update and the Second Service dedicated to the sermon.

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But for today in First Service, I would ask that you would join me in the *Book of John* in *Chapter 15*, and we'll begin at *verse 12*. I would also ask all who are able to stand to do so for the reading of the scriptures this morning, followed by a word of prayer. Again, the *Book of John Chapter 15*.

The word of God reads in *verse 12*, **“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.**

**[Verse 14] You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. 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.”**

Why don't we pray and ask the Lord for His blessing on this message this morning?

Father in heaven, we thank You so much for allowing us to be able to assemble in peace under the banner of Your name, to hear Your word and Lord, not only hear it, but heed it, press this upon our hearts. And may rest deep in our souls, so that we may be better stewards of Your word and better ambassadors to Christ.

So Lord, speak by the power of Your Holy Spirit, and go before us in the strength and power of Your might, in the mighty name of Yeshua, Jesus the Christ, we do pray. Amen.

All right. Thank you. And please be seated. This morning, the title of our teaching is 'Biblical Friendship,' and we're going to use these well-known passages as an outline to illustrate several aspects of biblical friendship, not to mention the extreme importance of having a godly friend or friends in our lives.

Now it should go without saying for those of us who are married, that one of our best godly friends should be our spouse. This to me is the weakest part of Christian marriages. I've mentioned this on several occasions, but it keeps coming up.

So I'll say it again. We need to be friends in our marriages. Marital relationships begin to fall apart because of a lack of likability, not because of falling out of love. No because you don't want to be around somebody you don't like. Right?

But if something happened to them, you're like, oh I love them.

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[ Laughter ]

What? You're laughing because you know I'm right.

[ Laughter ]

I mean, friendship is where that emotional attachment lies, and that requires a lot of time, work, and patience. And I do pray that these verses that we will look into, spoken by the one who calls His disciples His friend, will expose our superficial and embarrassing view of friendship, especially in light of how friendship based on the word of God should truly look like.

And trust me, there's enough here today to offend everybody.

[ Laughter ]

(Chuckling) None of us will escape.

[ Laughter ]

So let God be true and every man a liar. Let's begin here. Captured in the *Book of Proverbs* in *Chapter 27* and *verse 5* the word of God reads, **“Open rebuke is better than love carefully concealed.”**

Open rebuke is being honest, even though we may not want to hear it. And open rebuke does not come with deliberate contentions. No, it comes with deliberate concern. Do we see the difference? And we should all be concerned about the shallowness of our friendship.

Well, let's just call it what it really is. Our so-called biblical friendship looks more like a distant, careless association. Facts.

Now, this is not all to say that we need to have a lot of friends. Absolutely not. But this is to say that we must have a friend, a friend, a personal friend here on this earth. And we need to know how to be a friend. That includes establishing a friendship and maintaining it.

And if we do that, we can have a healthy friendship within our families. And with that said, let us all get rebuked. So pull up your skirts or your pants.

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Beginning with *verse 12* of our text, the word of God reads, **“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”**

Right out of the gate we are already in trouble. (Chuckling) Do we see what's at the heart of it all? Love. And not just any kind of love. And I say that because of the way we use the word "love" today.

We have made love baseless. We use it for everything. And we should all be more careful about that. Because the type of love that's being expressed here is the love of God. And let's remember, we have to keep this in the context of a biblical friendship.

Think about that. This is a high calling. It really is. And it should be very convicting. Because I know for myself, I fail in this department. Let's be real. It requires daily attention by all of us. This is how we must look at this.

And it's worth noting that Judas was not a part of this conversation that Jesus is having here with the other 11. Judas had already went off to do his dirty little deed. Why? He had no love in him to be able to love others. Judas was all about himself. Is that us?

So this commandment was given to the other 11 because they had love in them, and I pray that we all do as well and that we would follow through with this command. Because when we do, we are demonstrating that at the core of biblical friendship is having the love of Christ projected to those friends and/or would-be friends. You catch that?

And listen carefully when I say this. We should consider this command to be the minimal requirement when it comes to the treatment of fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, having the love of Christ projected.

And the love of Christ is not some docile and dormant love. No, it's complete love, a love that seeks to do the will of God, even when that is the difficult thing to do.

And even though Jesus is speaking to his disciples here, this love towards one another not only proves that we are His disciples, but it keeps us in alignment with the greatest of commandments: Loving the Lord with all you have and loving your neighbor as yourself.

And if we really consider this, we should recognize that this kind of love should be present during the development of our friendships. Are we tracking?

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This should be there right at the beginning. And could it be because of a lack of this is the main reason why many would-be deep and long-lasting friendships are never established? We can't even express the love of Christ to have the reaction that we may have. So nothing sparks off.

And again, I am not talking about each of us having friendships with many. No. I'm talking about each of us having a deep, long-lasting friendship with at least one of many. Are we following?

And we should also note that this friendship or these friendships are outside of our families. Do you hear me? If we do that, that would take us outside of us. And if we do that, that will actually benefit our families. Do you see the cycle? And that's because of what true friends are able to do, as we shall see.

In fact, the next verse of our text will drive us into that direction. As the word of God reads, **“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.”**

Now, I would assume for most of us that we can relate this greatest love ever that's being displayed, as that work that was done by the One who offers Himself for all mankind to be His friend as He would lay down His life on that cross.

And you know, He did this even though much of mankind still and did consider Jesus their enemy. So looking at it from that perspective is not a problem at all as long as we also see the important practical applications.

And based on the context, Jesus was and is also providing us this selfless metric that comes with being a friend. That's what's being displayed.

As one would put it, this laying down of one's life, quoting, “...is a representative form as a death of self-sacrificing, friendly love.”

That's what it is. A love that would demonstrate, you would see it, based on what we demonstrate. And this type of love can actually boil down to one giving their life. But this is not the main takeaway.

This is dealing with that self-sacrificing, friendship love that is found under Christ.

Remember, Jesus died for all. All.

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In the *Book of Romans Chapter 5:6-8* the word of God brings this point. It's to inform us so we can understand this passage. So we don't look at this passage thinking that, oh, we're to lay down our physical lives. It could happen, but that's not the point.

The word of God reads, **“For when we were still without strength, in due time, Christ died for the ungodly. [Do we see that?] For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”**

Do we see the point? It's to show that the laying down of our lives for our friends will be judged concerning the selfless acts that we do that's marked by biblical friendship. If we are not sacrificing something of ourselves for the betterment of our friends, then are we really friends?

Think about that. And this laying down of one's life is not just one way. We all must be willing to selflessly give and receive, without becoming consumed by our friends, or become conceited by what we give or what we are given by our friends, or both.

And the better that we know the word of God and follow the word of God, the better true friends we become to one another as well as to God Himself. Abraham's belief in the word of God was accounted unto him as righteousness, and He was called a friend of God, not the other way around. That is an important key to make sure we know. A friend of God.

And this ties into *verse 14* of our text, which is the meat of our text, as the word of God reads. **“You are My friends if you do whatever I command you...”**

Did we catch it? Now here I believe that this verse takes care of itself if we simply look back to what Jesus had commanded them already, right?

And that was to love one another as He loved them. And now it would seem that we have this added emphasis on making this a reality. This could be considered a call to take a biblical approach to friendship seriously.

And no one has to guess on how all of this could be accomplished. Because the Holy Spirit inspired those who would pen the scriptures to capture the official blueprint of the "whys," the "how's," the "what to's," and "what not to do's" when it comes to establishing a biblical

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friendship. We see that throughout the word of God. And we are truly His friend if we take heed and do them.

And notice Jesus did not say that He would be our friend if we did them. He just said that we are His friends if we did. Jesus embodies godly friendship, and He teaches us about all of this importance in every respect. But ultimately, He is our Savior, and He is not required to prove His friendship by doing what we say.

Now, some of us think differently. And perhaps that's part of the problem. For each of us, we are required to reciprocate the commands of God towards one another in order to establish friendships. But God is the author of friendship, and no reciprocation is required. Zero.

We must be careful and not bring God down to our friendship. And I know we like to say, "Jesus is my friend." But that's not entirely true when you state it like that. Do we see the difference? It's a small misquote with huge implications.

The reality is we need to be His friend. And that's proven by doing what He has commanded. And there is no escaping this reality. And we will all be held accountable. So let's all even be more offended. (Chuckling)

It only gets worse. (Chuckling)

We're going to address a popular theme regarding many Christians when it comes to friendship. And that's the attitude that I don't need any friends. I know you at least heard one Christian say this. Or they'll say this to try to get away with it. The only friend I need is Jesus.

Uh-oh. Did you not hear what we just said? You're trying to make Jesus your friend. Hmm. Yeah. No. We can't make Jesus our friend. That's not how it works. It sounds good. But that's not the case.

Oh, we have a friend in Jesus if we are His friend. Do we see the difference? Because when you do it the other way around, you're in control now. Oh, really? (Chuckling) I'm just saying. Right?

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It's a cop out. And it's not biblical concerning the ordained social construct of men. God has said that it is not good for man to be alone. And this includes the totality of mankind. But what about us who've been hurt and done wrong by friends? And you don't know my pain.

No, I get it. I don't know your pain. You're absolutely right. And it's a shame. And there's all kinds of situations that would make our situation seem legit to say we don't need any friends because of what we've gone through.

But do not forget that the word of God is the standard, not our feelings. And as hard as it is to get beyond some of these issues, we need to seek the Lord and get beyond them. King David had to get beyond Ahithophel betraying him, not to mention that the Savior himself was betrayed by Judas.

Even so, we are still invited to be His friend after all that He went through. This is why because of Jesus, we can sing 🎵 What a Friend We Have in Jesus 🎵

So we all know it's not easy to get over this past hurt, but it's doable, and it needs to be done. We need someone in our lives other than our husband and wives, if we are married, and other than our immediate family, for those of you who are not. You will not find one occasion in the scriptures after God stated that man should not be alone that man was ever encouraged to be alone.

Now, I'm not talking about being alone for a season or taking that much-needed time to be alone with the Lord. That's not what I'm talking about at all. I'm talking about the type of being alone to the point where your best friend is your pet, your car, your hobby, your job, or yourself.

And this is how many of us get. Even when we come to church, we sit by ourselves. Don't speak to nobody. Get the message, we think, run out the door. Don't talk to know nobody. And if you do, it's fruitless.

I mean, would it be such a novel thing if we came to church and actually discussed spiritual things at least somewhere in the conversation? Why would you come to the Church of God and discuss nothing about God? Go home for that.

[ Laughter ]



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And having an occasional social outing and a conversation with colleagues at work won't cut it. Each of us needs a dear, godly friend that we can bond with. God himself is a triune God. Never been alone. Perfection. Eternal relationship, everlasting, with the common union.

And for God, all things have and will forever be united. That means God the Father and God the Son and God the Holy Spirit have never had a disagreement. Perfect union.

But we, as fallen man, we don't have a perfect union with anyone of ourselves. Right?

This is why it takes so much work for us to even develop a biblical friendship. And I believe that it's because of the work involved that many refuse to commit. But God has it this way for a reason, and that reason is for our good.

Captured in the *Book of Ecclesiastes* in Chapter 4:9-12 the word of God reads, **“Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe [Curse] to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up.**

**Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; but how can one be warm alone? Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.”**

These are just a few examples within these verses the value of having a friend. The word of God tells us that is better for one, a good reward will come of it. we are able to lift each other up in a fall, keep one another warm, withstand an oppressor, and be stronger together. We will not have this type of coverage by being alone.

And no matter how strong that we think we are it's only a matter of time before we find out how detrimental choosing to be alone can really be. Listen to how the book of wisdom exposes us when we treasure being alone and isolated.

This truth is seen in *Proverbs Chapter 18:1*. The word of God reads, **“A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; he rages against all wise judgment.”**

This is what it comes down to: Our own desire. It's what I want to do. How did we get here? Oh, perhaps, it takes no effort. It cost me nothing. And I do not have to be examined by anyone. I am the judge and jury of my life. I've got it all figured out.

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And look at the second part of this verse. **“He rages against all wise judgment.”** And this is so telling. In fact, it is the second part of this Proverb that we, as the leadership in this church, have overly experienced, especially dealing with conducting biblical guidance sessions.

So what happens in those sessions is we become the enemy by allowing Scripture to decide the wise judgment. We use all the various examples, all the outlines and the commands in the word of God that are Red Sea clear. And many of them rage and get angry at us, not recognizing they are fighting against God.

And let me help you out. I raged against God before. Didn't turn out so well. Each and every occasion met with failure. Because when we rage against the Lord, you know what we end up doing? We actually leave His presence because of our pride.

And when we do so, you know what happens? Things go right for a little bit, and you think you're in control, and then you jump up and you believe at the end of all of this, you'll sing that famous song.

(Singing) 🎵 I did it my way 🎵

[ Laughter ]

That's what you're thinking. See, we all think that. But the Bible says, **“There is a way that seemeth right unto a man. But the end thereof are the ways of death.”** And again, we're talking about professing Christians here. And

we're so sad because of this raging. You know what we had to do? Restrict giving biblical guidance. Now it's done on a strict case-by-case basis after we have a bunch of prerequisites that have been done and completed.

You know, my life was in danger behind this. And some of you know, the details. Bringing that crap to my home. So yeah.

Can you imagine? All because many Christians choose to rage against the wise judgment of the word of God, seeking our own desires. But getting back to when we dealing with those who isolate themselves, the question is, how does your isolation please the Lord? How does this attitude of not needing anyone please Jesus?

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This behavior is not according to the word of God. And please know there are many Christians who do this that do not isolate themselves from everything.

No, they'll isolate themselves from the brethren. But what you'll find in many cases that they have a lot of friends of the world, and they can talk to them and hang with them all day long. Why? Because they must have all things common.

Remember they rage against wise judgment but somehow love to entertain foolishness. Now we've all been there, and we all can go there. But if we stay there, we become weaker and weaker. And it also makes us less desirable for any godly person to ever consider choosing us to be a friendship. Why would I be a friend with you? It's a turn off.

And some Christians might be thinking, well, you know, that's kind of how I want it in the first place. Oh, beware. Because perhaps the Lord has just had you handed over to Satan. Sadly, having many of those friends of the world will have an influence on any Christian.

Captured in the *Book of 1 Corinthians in Chapter 15:33*, the word of God reads, **“Do not be deceived. Evil company corrupts good habits.”**

Now, this is not to say that we do not engage with people of the world. Of course, we do. We do this all the time. But the company that we keep will impact us.

This cannot be overstated. Think about this. Even if our evil company, what we keep company with, is the phone, The TV, computer screen, evil company corrupts good habits. Entertaining evil will corrupt us.

But then again, how would you be confronted or challenged regarding all of this since having a biblical friendship is not what you seek. This is a sad state to be in, and it robs us from growing in the Lord.

Back to the *Proverbs in Chapter 27:17*. We know this one very well. As the word of God reads, **“As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.”**

And for this one, allow me to allow an old school commentator to speak about this verse because I believe that he says it all in very few words.

Quoting, “A man by himself is not a man. He is dull. He is very blunt. But if his fellow come and quicken him by his presence, speech, and example, he is so sharpened by this action

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that he is much more comfortable, confident, skillful, and better than he was when he was alone.”

And we should all know that this sharpening process comes with friction, but we are both better off because of it, and we all need it. And if we can accept this fact, then we would not reject wise judgment. We would be so happy to welcome it.

Captured in *verse 9 of Chapter 27*, the word of God reads, “ “**Ointment and perfume delight the heart, and the sweetness of a man’s friend gives delight by hearty counsel.**”

Praise the Lord for biblical friendship. I know for me it has been the counsel of those few but faithful friends that God has used and continues to use to keep me from myself and to check those blind spots that I have that I can't see. And it has saved me from catastrophes. And I'm so thankful for them.

And when we sit and talk about the things of God and do what God has said, like laying our burdens on one another, oh, man, God honors it. And this is what's also meant by that passage, “**...when two or three are gathered together in My name, I am in their midst**”

Hear me. This covers that. The Great I Am is in the midst. And who is the Great I Am? What's His other name? Mighty counselor.

You sit together and you guys start discussing things of God. Things pop up. Wisdom comes in. And you're like, oh my goodness. Didn't see it that way. And dots start getting connected in all kinds of things, and oh my goodness. Why? Because the Mighty Counselor's in our midst, that's why.

This is what biblical friendship drives. And we should welcome it. And it's by His counsel, we are told how to choose our friends of God.

The *Book of Proverbs* continues. Captured in *Chapter 12:26* the word of God reads, “**The righteous should choose his friends carefully, for the way of the wicked leads them astray.**”

Choose wisely or be led astray by the evil company that we keep, even if it's your cell phone. That's why on the phones and a computer says, "restrict." You can put restrictions on it, right? How many of you put restrictions on it? See? (Chuckling)

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We have to examine those potential friends with the wisdom of the word of God. The word of God is the standard for everything. And what that looks like as it pertains to biblical friendship and selection is in regard to their character.

Now, as I said, the word of God is the standard that gives us the guidelines in this process. But the first thing that we need to do is to make sure that we possess those friend-of-God traits in the first place and that our character could be considered to align with the word of God.

And here are a few traits captured in the scriptures that we can all chew on and ask ourselves the question: Am I friendship worthy? Do we see the question? Have it in your mind. Am I friendship worthy?

Now none of us are perfect, but the way we are and the way we carry ourselves will expose who we are and if our character is godly. So here we go. I'm asking, am I friendship worthy?

First of all, in general, do I express the fruit of the Spirit?

Am I an angry person?

Am I a busybody and need a lot of friends?

Am I always in my neighbor's house?

Can I look past a transgression?

Do I gossip?

Do I keep company with fools?

Am I loyal?

Am I reliable or just a liability?

And am I able to love at all times?

By now we should get the point. And perhaps we should all be convicted. But let's not be discouraged. Because if we are willing to humble and examine ourselves, making sure that we are friendship worthy as we go through this process, which is a daily process, by the way, and if we're doing that, the Lord will come alongside and establish those godly relationships, making our choosing of these faithful friends Red Sea clear and ordained by God.

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And if we're already there walking in that, sometimes those friendships are instantaneous, like with David and Jonathan. I mean, on a personal note, rolling along side, so I'm getting off the H-1, headed home to Eva, and I come off the spin, and here's another guy in a motorcycle (Vroom) right next to each other. I'm like, oh, his bike, oh man, that thing is loud. Man, it's nice.

And we talk from light to light to light to light. And we just rolling, man, and we exchanged numbers and all that. And then we text a little bit and went back and forth.

And then for the next week or so, we saw each other, three other times — never seen him before — three other times. Finally, we set up a ride. We hit the North Shore. He took me to a breakfast joint. And we started talking there.

Come to find out the brother is a pastor of 21 years. See? Right. You talking about iron sharpening iron. I'm like, oh, real family. And it's how God does it. Divine engagements.

Pastor Kit. He's back there now. Stand up, my friend.

[ Applause ]

Not only that, he's a major in the Army. So we have that military experience. Thank you for your service, sir.

[ Applause ]

He grew up in a hometown next to, close to my mother. I was just shocked. All the commonalities. It's like Red Sea clear, right? Yeah, and I know he's back there like, man, why are you telling all my business?

[ Laughter ]

That's what friends do. (Chuckling) We got to tell everything. And He lives seven blocks from me.

[ Congregation says, "Wow!" ]

Madness. And so I praise God for that.

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But for the most part, friendships; they're an investment. And the return on it often depends on what we put into it. It takes time, but in time, the building of those friendships leads to a long-lasting trust that bears so much fruit.

And we can relate this to our final verse of our text, as captured in verse 15 of John 15. The word of God reads, **“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.”**

Here again, Jesus, with the faithful 11, explains to them, not only are they His friend, but He doesn't call them slaves anymore. Why? Because they know and been told the will of the master.

So what Jesus is expressing is that He was sharing information with them in confidence. And with Him being God, that would eventually seal their confidence, as the things that were told to them would be brought back to their memory. You see how this works?

But for all of us Who want to be called a friend of Jesus, we should think about this. Their friendship to Him was tied into what He taught them. Do we see that?

He spent time with them. This was a relationship that was built over time. It included trials and tests, and all of that was a part of shaping them as being friendship worthy, so to speak. And think about this: Friends of God are allowed godly access, godly insight.

Captured in the *Book of Genesis in Chapter 18:17*, sometime after Abraham believed and it was accounted as righteousness, the word of God reads, **“And the Lord said, 'Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing?'”**

Read the account. Abraham was told what God was going to do after him believing in the Word and it be accounted to righteousness for him. And later on in the scriptures, we see that he was called a friend of God. And just as friends of God are entrusted with deeper things concerning God, so our godly friends entrusted with those things that are deeper concerning each of us.

And we should also consider that even though Jesus no longer called them servants or slaves, those who was His friend never once considered themselves any more than a servant

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or slave. Never. In fact, in the scriptures they would often use the term **“bondservant of Jesus Christ.”**

This goes to show that they clearly understood their place in this divine relationship. They clearly got the point. And not only do we need to understand this, but we need to understand our place regarding our relationships. Why? Because we should always remain servants.

Captured in the *Book of Galatians in Chapter 5:13-14* the word of God reads, **“For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. [Do we see that?] ...through love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”**

And what's sad is that this law is hardly fulfilled today. Because for the most of us, we don't even know our neighbors. Right? And we don't even give the Holy Spirit room to do a work by showing those neighbors that we are friends of God. All of us have a lot of work to do, especially in this department, and we have a lot to consider.

Biblical friendship is very unique because it requires the true and living God to be the foundation of it. And as individuals, we must search ourselves. We need to have these friendships within our homes and be able to display all of its traits wherever we go.

It is a shame to come to church every single Sunday after Sunday and after Sunday, and yet not truly be His friend. Stop wasting your time!

We need to be bold in our faith, and not be overly concerned with converting people. But instead, let's just start by conversing with people about who calls us His friend.

And for those of you who do not know Jesus and have someone come up to you and converse with you about Jesus, you would do well to listen because your soul is on the line, and death is coming for all of us if the Lord should tarry. You need Jesus for the salvation of your soul.

And if you have not, I would encourage you to choose Jesus today and be saved by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And the Gospel of Jesus Christ is that Christ died for our sins



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according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and He rose again the third day according to the scriptures. And we know He's coming back according to the scriptures. And it's A-B-C simple to be saved.

First, by acknowledging that you are a sinner and in need of a Savior. And that Savior is Jesus Christ. Romans *Chapter 3:10* says that **“As it is written, there is none righteous, no not one.”**

And *verse 23* says, **“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”**

This means that none of us will be accepted in the kingdom of God, of our own merit. And as shown in *Chapter 6:23*, the Bible says, **“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

That represents the A. And B stands for believe, while the C stands for confess with your mouth. Both are captured in the Book of Romans Chapter 10:9-10.

The word of God reads, **“That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”**

This is just a most simple way to be saved and have the opportunity to have Jesus call you His friend. God wants us all to be reconciled to him because of His love for us.

His word specifically says in the *Book of 2 Peter Chapter 3:9*, **“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is long suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”**

Time is short, and tomorrow is not promised. We're not promised to make it past this message. So consider this so you can sing that song with us.

(Singing)

♪ What a Friend We Have in Jesus ♪

I'm not singing no more. Please stand. Kaponono, come on up.

[ Laughter ]

So why don't we pray?

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Father in heaven, thank You, Lord, for Your word, tough word but a needed word. We all need to take heed to this and be better stewards of Your word. In these times that continue to grow shorter and shorter, we need to be more active and be better about Your business.

So encourage us and strengthen us by the power of Your Holy Spirit and keep us in alignment with Your word, always seeking to do Your will. We love You and we thank You.

In the mighty name of Jesus, the Christ we pray. Amen.