

*What kind of friend have
you been on this Retreat?*

Biblical Friendship

Obstacles to Friendship



What are some obstacles that you are thinking of?

- **Distance**
- **Communication**
- **Different interests**
- **Popularity**
- **Pride**
- **Selfishness**
- **Jealousy**
- **Hurtful speech**
- **Untrustworthiness**

Let's Go Back to the Beginning!

- A right relationship w/ others starts w/ a right relationship w/ the one who created us

***Romans 1:16-32 & 3:10-18**

- A right relationship with your Creator only comes on His terms

***Romans 5:1, 6-10**

- A right relationship with your Creator enables you to enjoy what He's given you

***Genesis 2:18-25, 1 Jn 4:19**

Salvation!



How does Salvation help us in our friendships?

- Salvation makes us a New Creation

* **2 Corinthians 5:17** -Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

* **Titus 3:3-5a** -For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.
4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us....

- Salvation begins Indwelling of Holy Spirit

* **Galatians 5:22-23** *(turn here)*



So I'm saved now...does that mean all obstacles are removed?

- Our Battle with our “unredeemed human-ness”

*** Romans 7:18-23** - For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.

I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.

*** Galatians 5:16-25...go back to vs 13!**



What was going on in the church at Galatia?

- Galatians 2:11ff
- How does Paul seek to solve this problem?
 - * I. The Summation of our Calling: Love vs Gal 5:13-15

That's easy to say but hard to do!
 - * II. The Solution for our Condition: Walk by the Spirit vs Gal 5:16-25

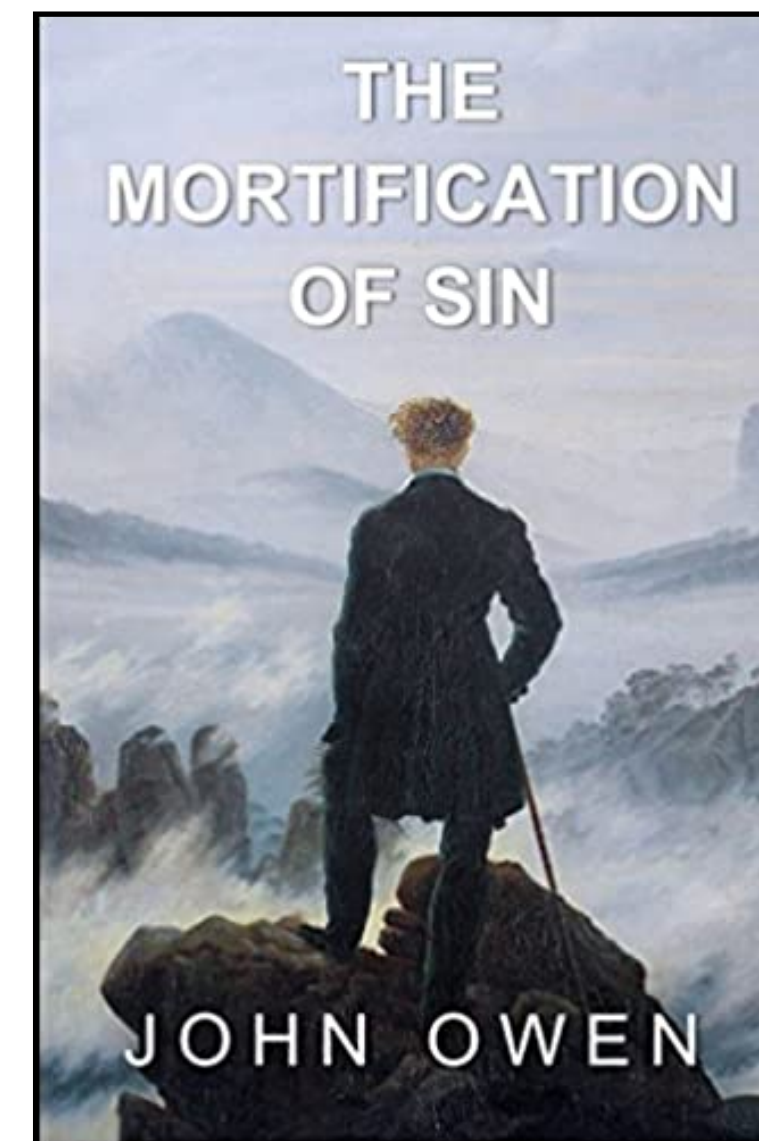
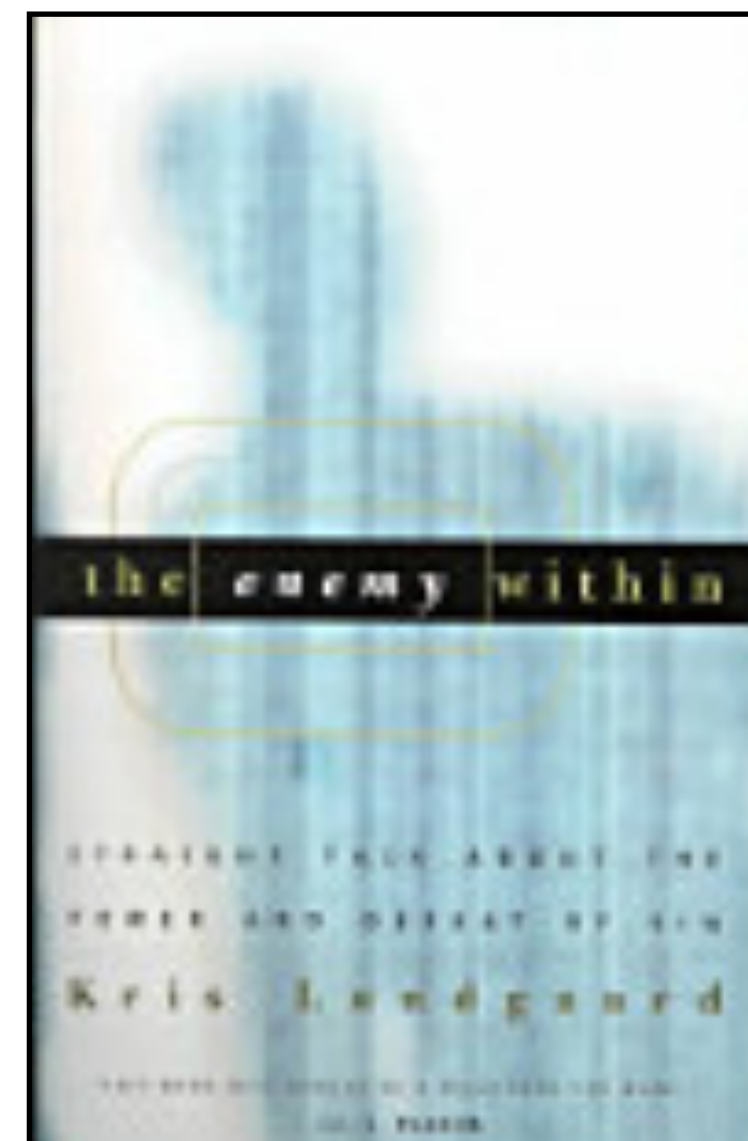


* II. The Solution for our Condition: Walk by the Spirit

vs Gal 5:16-25

A. The Battle within

¹⁷ For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.



* II. The Solution for our Condition: Walk by the Spirit

vs Gal 5:16-25

B. The Deeds of the Flesh

19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God

How might these sins make friendship more difficult?

C. The Fruit of the Spirit

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

How might this Fruit make friendships easier?

* II. The Solution for our Condition: Walk by the Spirit

vs Gal 5:16-25

D. How to win the Battle -> Walk by the Spirit

24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

- What does this mean?
- How do I do this?
 1. Cultivate the Essentials in your Life
 2. Practice the “Process for Biblical Change”
 - ex. laziness
 - ex. selfishness

What are some other possible obstacles?

- **Immaturity**

How does considering this help me relate to my friends?

- **Different parenting Choices**

What is a practical example where these two obstacles collide?

- **A Quick Perspective on Dating/Courtship**

Some Questions to Consider

1. What do your parents say?

—> What do his/her parents say?

2. Are you walking with the Lord?

—> Is he/she walking with the Lord?

—> How do I know?

*min app, commitment to church, service, parents

3. Are you consistently cultivating the Essentials in your life?

—> Is he/she consistently cultivating the Essentials in her life?

4. Are you mature enough to create & keep safeguards in your relationship?

—> Is he/she mature enough to create & keep safeguards in your relationship?

5. Are you mature enough to have this relationship and NOT abandon your friends/family/ministry?

—> Is he/she mature enough to have this relationship and NOT abandon your friends/family/ministry?

Remember the Ways Bad Company Corrupts?

“Limiting your Reach of Love”

“Pressuring you to Violate God’s Commands”

Tips & Thoughts on Dating/Courtship

Parents & their Preferences

- > Why do parents say different things?
- > Which is the best approach?

Group Interaction is Great

- > When ready, talk to parents about the next step!
- > Be honest w/ yourself, call it what it is!

*Guarding Hearts

***this includes your own!**

1 Timothy 5:1–2 - “Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but rather appeal to him as a father, to the younger men as brothers, the older women as mothers, **and the younger women as sisters**, in all purity.”

Trust in the Lord

Psalms 37:4 - “Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart.”

Understand that you are still growing & so is the one you are interested in

—> Serve the Lord, Grow in Him, Further His Kingdom and you'll be ready when HIS time has come

How do we Conclude this Study?

- **Desire Godly Friends**
 - *Enjoy them!*
 - *Grow with them!*
 - *Serve with them and further the kingdom!*
- **Avoid unhealthy Friendships**
- **Realize your own Shortcomings as a Friend**
 - *Do you need salvation?*
 - *Do you need continued growth in sanctification?*
 - *Mortify Sin in order to Remove Obstacles!*

