

Gentle and Lowly Chapter 12 - A Tender Friend

Define our terms....Friend....good friend....Pam's comment yesterday

- not rankings in friendship that we like to do, these are my church friends, my work friends, my close friends, my best friends, my frenemies...
- good friend vs. poor friend

If I ask you what's the difference between a friend from the world's perspective and a friend from the bible's perspective, what would you say?

What would the world say makes a good friend?

What does scripture say? We will get to that....

Study Guide: P. 36-37

Q8.

Do you find it instinctively irreverent to speak of Christ as our friend? What in your life experience informs your answer? (p.113)

The author (Ortland) ties this to the fact that we have "lamentably impoverished the category even of friendship between humans, especially among men." He quotes Richard Goober's book (who is not a believer) "The Overflowing of Friendship: Love between Men and the Creation of the American Republic," when he says "male friendship has been diluted in the present time when compared to the richness of healthy, non-erotic affection between Lenin colonial America."

Add to that the societies pre-occupation with the sin of homosexuality in its many forms and the changing of the God given roles of men and women.

Sounds like a Holy reason to flinch at speaking of Christ as our friend?

Is it deeper than that?

Let's make this real. Let's take this personally. Think in your mind, in the honest inner recesses of your mind, and answer this question. Have I been a good friend to....fill in the blank.

Am I a good friend to anyone in the church?

I know what kind of friend I tend to be in my heart of hearts, when Jesus comes along and calls me his friend. Doesn't my sinful heart flinch at that? "I know what kind of friend I am...."

Q9.

In what ways is Jesus Christ the perfect friend, a better friend than any human ever could be? (p.113-120)

1. A friend of sinners

Matthew 11:19

Jesus accused of being a friend of tax collectors and sinners.

Mark 1:24

Christ's enemies see him more clearly than those closest to him.

Luke 15:1/Matthew 19/Matthew 10:3, Luke 5:27
tax collectors coming to him/Zaccheus/Matthew

Mark 16:9, Luke 8:2

Mary Magdalene

2. Christ is the friend who will always enjoy rather than refuse our presence.

Proverbs 17:17

A friend loves at all times

Prov 18:24

friend who sticks closer than a brother

Prov 27:6, 9

Faithful are the wounds of a friend/ counsel from the soul is sweet to his friend.

3. Christ's friendship has no limits.

All of our human friendships have a limit to what they can withstand.

4. A true friend pursues you, he allows you to pursue him and he opens himself up to you without holding anything back.

****He didn't mention this**** keep your view of Christ in balance....

John 15:14 - You are my friends, IF you do what I command.

Not your obedience to all these rules saves you.

If you are my friend, you will be obedient.

Implicit here....if you do not obey, you are not my friend.

No longer called slaves....slaves obey whether they understand or not.

Are we still slaves?

Rom. 6:16 Do you not ^aknow that when you go on presenting yourselves to someone as ^bslaves for obedience, you are **slaves** of the one whom you obey, either of ^csin ¹leading to death, or of obedience ²leading to righteousness?

Rom. 6:17 But ^athanks be to God that *though* you were **slaves** of sin, you obeyed from the heart that ^bpattern of teaching to which you were ^cgiven over,

Rom. 6:18 and having been freed from sin, you became **slaves** of righteousness.

Q10. What does it mean that Jesus is your companion? (p.117-118)

Define Companion: Someone who goes with you on a journey.

Read page 118. Tie to Matthew 11:28-30.

This brings us back to where we started.

****Read page 120, first full paragraph (in green in my book).****

It would be cruel to leave it here...so what does scripture say about this...

The best friend you can be is to be a friend like Christ...

Paula Higuchi on ACBC Website "Flourishing Friendship"

<https://biblicalcounseling.com/resource-library/articles/flourishing-friendship/>

1. Jesus draws near to us not because we deserve his love, but because he is loving. Jn 1:14, 1 Jn 4:7-12
 1. we don't compete or compare James 3:16
 2. We don't keep score. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7
 3. do without expectation of return Acts 20:35
2. Jesus models consistent companionship in His earthly ministry. Matt. 4:18-22
 1. taking the initiative
 2. ministering together
 3. intentional in who he chose
 4. exercising wisdom to know how many people we can realistically be close with.
 5. Easily offended and prideful Prov. 19:11, 1 Cor. 13:7
 6. Withdrawing when you are hurt
 7. Benefit of the doubt, extending grace 1 Cor. 4:5
 8. Avoiding anger James 1:19-20
3. Jesus gave of himself in love and service for the good of others. Jn 13:34, Phil. 2:3-4, Rom. 12:15
1 John 3:16
we ought to lay down our lives for our brethren
How about your phone, iPad, computer?
Job? He who doesn't work, doesn't eat.
workout routine?
a meal? love of food
personal comfort? sit on the couch...
4. Jesus focuses on the sanctification of His disciples Jn 17:27, Prov. 27:17, Prov. 28:13, Prov. 15:31