



FUN AND FRIENDS CAMPAIGN
THE FOUNDATION OF ALL RELATIONSHIPS IS FRIENDSHIP

AIM: To teach my pupils that God never gives a commandment to keep without giving the wherewithal to keep that commandment. To teach my pupils what true friendship is and how we can keep that friendship.

SCRIPTURE: John 15: 10-14

INTRODUCTION: The Greek word that is used the most for the word "friend" in the Bible is "comrade" but most of the time it is the word "others." In other words it means that true loyalty is true friendship and it is a true concern for others, or another, and not for your self.

THE LESSON:

I. THE COMMANDMENT TO LOVE IS IDENTIFIED WITH BEING A FRIEND. (John 15:13-15)

- a. God gave a commandment and God never gives a commandment that cannot be kept.
- b. It is strange but God did not use the word "mother" or "father." God used the word "friend." God didn't say "greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his mother." No He said "friend."
- c. Hold it, your wife, husband, daughter, son, mother, or father could be your friend.
- d. To whatever degree of the relationship you have with somebody it is for their good and not for your good. This tells others of your degree of friendship and loyalty.
- e. True friendship and loyalty is laying down ones life. He is not talking primarily here about dying; rather He is talking about laying down your interests for someone else's interests. You lay down your wants and appetites for "others" or "friends."
- f. Based on that anyone can be a friend.
- g. Just because someone is your wife, husband, son, daughter, mother, or father does not automatically make them a friend.
- h. When you come to a place in your life where it is none of you and all of them then you have laid down your life.

II. THE HARDEST PERSONS TO BE A FRIEND TO.

a. Someone who has what you want or need.

- i. The person who has the most of what you want or need is God. That means for you to be God's friend is harder than being anybody else's friend. Because true friendship and loyalty must be stripped of my needs and totally occupied with the needs of the object of my friendship.
- ii. Thus you are God's friend according as to what you want Him to have and not what you want yourself to have. (Isaiah 41:8; James 2:23)
- iii. Loyalty and friendship means a void of self and being entirely filled with others' needs. (Luke 11:1-6; Jer. 33:3)
- iv. Thus it is harder to be God's friend than anybody else's friend. Why? Because it is harder to be a friend to someone who has what you want or need.

b. Your mate.

- i. The reason is your mate has something that you want in affection, breakfast, money, etc.
- ii. The husband wife relationship must of necessity be one of satisfying each other's wants and needs.
- iii. Since pure friendship is not concerned about my needs, but the needs of others I find myself with the hardest relationship on the face of the earth in the husband wife relationship. So everyone who is married must work at it more than others who are not married.
- iv. You must be very careful not to be selfish because as you empty yourself of wanting your needs filled and fill yourself with wanting your mates needs filled only then can you be a friend.
- v. You cannot walk up to anyone and say, "let's be friends" or "I'll be your friend if you will be my friend," because the minute you say, "If you'll be my friend" you have disqualified yourself of being a friend.
- vi. Friendship doesn't say you have something I want; rather friendship says I have something you need.

c. Parents and children.

- i. Why? Because you want the child to say "I love you." You want the child to give you a big hug. That's why when they hit the ages of 10-14 they become so exasperating. Why? Because they do not fulfill to you what you want from them and you get angry.
- ii. The same thing is true of the child toward the parent. The child needs something from Mom and Dad. Thus the child cannot be a true friend to Mom or Dad. "Dad can I have a dollar?" "Dad can I have the keys to the car?" One day dad gets old and he's put into a rest home and the boy forgets him. Why? Because the son was not a friend to his dad.
- iii. To whatever degree you are unselfish you qualify to be a friend and to be loyal.
- iv. To whatever degree you want something from a relationship; to that degree you have a tainted relationship.

III. OBSERVATIONS:

- a. Not many couples who marry are friends and thus are not loyal and cannot be loyal.**
 - i. Without friendship you cannot have true Biblical love.
 - ii. Vows do not hold a marriage together, friendship holds a marriage together.
 - iii. Without friendship you do not have love and without love you cannot have loyalty.
 - iv. Most couples that get married do not love each other they want each other and because they want each other they do not have friendship, because they are being selfish.
- b. Not many ladies and men want to marry a friend.**
 - i. Basically because friends are not very exciting they think. Friends know how to love because they know how to be a friend.
 - ii. Friendship is the foundation for love and loyalty.
 - iii. Most young people do not want to date a friend and they say to me "He's just a friend." That's like saying I don't have any water except the Atlantic Ocean.
 - iv. That is why couples that are married a long time survive. They realize it isn't the flesh or the lust it is the "I want to take care of you" that has held them together.
- c. The average "I love you" is not an "I love you", but a request for an "I love you."**
 - i. I will if she will never works. I will if he will never works. I will if she doesn't will always work. I will if he doesn't will always work.
 - ii. A selfish "I love you" is not being a friend nor does it evoke loyalty.
- d. Friendship love needs no return and that is loyalty.**
 - i. Familiarity breeds contempt, but friendship breeds compassion and unselfishness. Get past familiarity to friendship.
 - ii. You can be anybody's friend when you decide to be a friend instead of wanting a friend.
- e. The easiest person to be a friend to is someone who does not know you.**
 - i. If he doesn't know you and you don't know him, you can't ask him or be asked of him for anything.
 - ii. The reason you move on to so-called new friends is because they don't really know you and cannot be unselfish in their relationship with you. They do not know your needs and you do not know their needs.
 - iii. Do not get into the habit of running to the new.
- f. Start now meeting the needs of those around you, especially those of your own household.**
 - i. You can be a friend without them returning that friendship.
 - ii. You can be a friend without having to be the number one friend.
- g. Dying to self doesn't make you a friend, but it qualifies you to be able to be a friend.**
 - i. If there is nothing that you want then there's nothing you would want from anyone and you can qualify to be a real friend to anyone.
 - ii. So, there goes disappointment and anger out the window. A true friend knows of the humanity of others and understands their own humanity and learns to quickly forgive because they want to be forgiven.