

Study QUESTIONS

Ep.1373: What Is True Friendship According to the Bible?

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1. How do we know Abraham was God's friend? What does Jehoshaphat say about this relationship? What does the word translated *friend* mean? How else is it translated? How do Isaiah and James confirm God's friendship with Abraham? (2 Chronicles 20:6-7, Isaiah 41:8-9, James 2:23)
2. What made that unusual friendship work? What could they possibly have in common? The friendship between God and Abraham was confirmed by God's unusual behavior in Genesis 18:16-33. What was it?
 - What does this friendship illustrate as the basis for our own long-lasting friendships in the Lord?
3. Describe in what way the Jews were told to treat their neighbors according to God's Law. Who were their "neighbors"? Why is it imperative that we follow this example? What is our relationship with others who have received God's favor now or in the future? (Exodus 20:16-17, Leviticus 19:18,34)
 - How are you doing in upholding this principle in your life?
4. Explain Proverbs 27:17. How did Jonathan embody friendship in his relationship with David? What is the main idea surrounding the use of the word "love" (Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #157)? In each case we have looked at, what are the characteristics of these friendships? How does Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 illustrate this idea? Who might the third strand of the cord be? (1 Samuel 18:1-5, Proverbs 17:17)
5. Describe Solomon's attitude when he became king over Israel. What did God offer him? For what did Solomon ask? How did Solomon fall away from God? (1 Kings 3:2-9, 11:1-2)
 - Have any of your friendships drawn you away from God? Do you struggle with this currently?
6. Who paved the way for Jesus' ministry? How did this man's followers feel about Jesus' rising popularity? How did this man feel? What was his attitude towards his decreasing ministry? How does he set a standard for us? (John 3:26-30)
7. How does Jesus set the example of the higher love of John 15:12-17? Describe this love. What does Jesus expect of us in regards to this love?
 - How well do you exhibit selflessness towards others?
8. What is the difference between brotherly love and selfless love? Explain three things to be aware of as we labor together to serve others. (1 Thessalonians 4:9, 1 Peter 1:22, 1 Corinthians 3:5-9, 1 Thessalonians 3:1-3, Philippians 4:1-3)
 - How are you developing, nurturing, appreciating and maximizing your deep friendships for your mutual Christian growth? Are your friendships based on *agape*, that selfless and benevolent love?