

# Thinking Biblically about Friendship - Part 1

Gay Bennett - Moms by Grace - January 2025

*People are not fillers for a PRESENT God, and God is not a placeholder for future friends. The goal of biblical friendship is to secure ourselves to the sure, steadfast anchor of Christ and, while holding to that anchor, give and receive the gift of friendship in a way that brings Him glory.*

~ Christine Hoover

## Questions for Today - Part 1

- What does it mean to think biblically about friendships?
- How do I think, speak, and live my life as a believer in such a way that invites biblical friendship?

## Questions for February - Part 2

- What am I looking for (practically speaking) from a friend who will walk with me, helping me to see life through a biblical lens?
- How do I address the challenges in friendships?

## Our Daily Realities / Filters for Right Thinking

- A) We have an \_\_\_\_\_ who hates us!

*1 Peter 5:8 » "Be of sober spirit, be on the alert! (literally, wake up!). Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."*

- B) Our \_\_\_\_\_ is in Christ.

*II Cor. 5:17, 21) » "Therefore if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; old things have passed away and behold all things have become new ... He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."*

*Ephesians 2:10 » "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works ..."*

*Galatians 2:20 » "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me ..."*

## WHAT IS BIBLICAL FRIENDSHIP?

- Steeped in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the gospel.
- Lived out in the context of \_\_\_\_\_

KEY: \_\_\_\_\_

- A means for people to make \_\_\_\_\_ of God through their friendship than individually apart from it.

***In sum, biblical friendships help me to see myself as a sinner and my need for God as the Savior; accepting the fact that we are being mutually, simultaneously, synchronously sanctified, and believing God's purposes for our friendship are greater than just our happiness.***



- ★ **Personally** ... evaluate your key friendships based on the above criteria.  
Reflect, pray, and then sit with one of those friends for a frank discussion.

## Keys to a Healthy, God-Honoring Friendships

### (1) Biblical friendship happens ' \_\_\_\_\_ ,

- You cannot be in a biblical friendship with an \_\_\_\_\_.

*Philippians 2:1-4 » "Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in Spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves. Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others."*

*John 15:13 » "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down his life for his friends."*

*Galatians 6:2 » "Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch over yourself lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."*

### (2) Biblical friendships require a commitment to ' \_\_\_\_\_ , (also known as the process of sanctification).

- **Biblical friends are \_\_\_\_\_ to stick with you!**

*Proverbs 18:24 » "A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."*

- Not all friends are created \_\_\_\_\_!
- Friendships are NOT \_\_\_\_\_!

- **Biblical friends build you up in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ (Prov. 27:17)**

*Proverbs 27:17 » "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens (influences) another."*

Our best friends are those whose company most makes us afraid to sin.

-Maurice Roberts

- **Biblical friends hold you accountable to \_\_\_\_\_**

*Philippians 4:8 » "Finally brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell (sit in your mind) on these things."*

*2 Timothy 3:16-17 » "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."*



Note: The filter must be \_\_\_\_\_ ... about God and His word.

- Being in the \_\_\_\_\_ privately, consistently.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ with the Body of Christ ... the church.

*Hebrews 10:24-25 » "And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near".*

### (3) Biblical friends offer encouragement and support

- Crisis / \_\_\_\_\_  
*Prov. 17:17 » "A friend loves at all times, but a brother is born for adversity".*
- Celebrate successes in the life of \_\_\_\_\_
- Time/space - and don't \_\_\_\_\_ !

### Where should you start?

★ **Start with your story** ... how you were raised to view friendship

★ **Evaluate your key friendships** based on the criteria we talked about today. A bold move is to think, pray, and sit with one of those friends for an honest discussion.

★ **Personally ... address the issue of TIME!**

- Am I continually thankful for this season?
- Do I enjoy my husband? My children? What is the evidence ... in my heart / that they can see?
- What would my husband say about my friendships?
- Outside of my home, what/who should I be investing in? Have you talked to your husband? Or that friend we've been discussing this morning?
- Who is in this season with me? What can I learn from them? What value do I add?
- Do I use the word 'busy' ALL THE TIME!
- Is my home characterized by 'hurry' sickness? What does this look like?
- Do I have 'white space' on my calendar? Do I use it wisely?
- What do my children observe about my friendships?