



GRACE

We Welcome Our Online Listeners

IDENTITY MATTERS

Victory: True Indwelt Friendships 2



Scripture Reading (Please Stand)

"For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW; and A MAN'S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD.

"He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

(Mat 10:35-38)

Part 2

WITDRY
SOCIAL AREA OF LIFE

Fruit: True Indwelt Friendship

Post-Modern Friendship

Friendship in our post-modern times is viewed as some kind of self-love exchange. Long gone is the truest definition – a vessel to entrust the Gospel and mission of God. I openly admit that my friendships, as few as they are, are for the strict purpose of ministry inheritance. This may sound cold or rude but since I know God's purpose of friendship, the opinions of others matter not to me.

Spiritual Man

Walking In The Spirit

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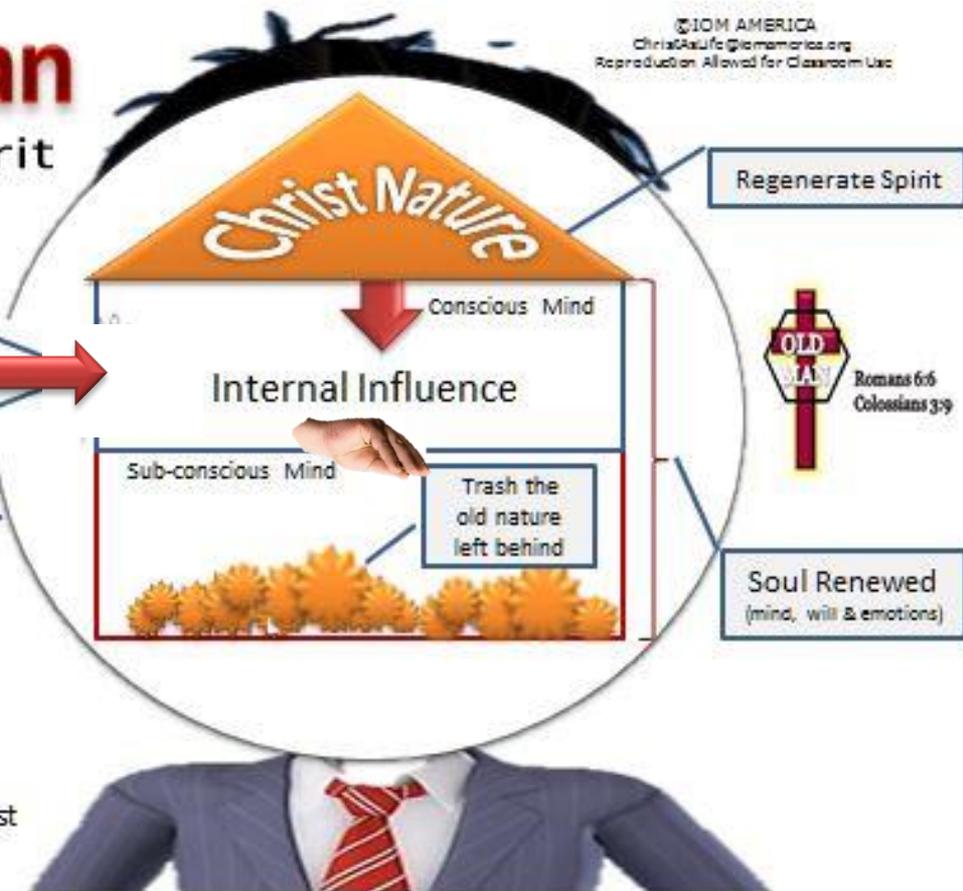


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Friendships



Body Yielded



Spiritual Man:

Spirit – That of Christ

Mind – Being Renewed

Will – Choosing Truth

Emotions – Controlled by Christ

Body – Yielded to Christ

Saved Man: Regenerate In The Spirit & Walking After The Spirit (Rom. 6:12-13)

Christ In You

To your average self-proclaimed and/or indwelt Christian, these words sound harsh and offensive but if you understand True Indwelt Friendship, you will see the power of the Gospel commissioned to us through Jesus' words.

A friend is one with whom you know you can share all things without the fear of abandonment, a break in loyalty or running at the first sign of adversity. There is no better friend than the friend (Jesus Christ) that lives inside the one you love. If you live and maintain your eternal perspective with this view, misunderstandings will not become an insurmountable threat, primarily because the commitment of friendship is invested in Christ in the believer.

Let's face it, people disappoint and fail us daily – no matter who they are, at least that is my experience. A true and honorable friend is one who enriches, deepens and contributes to your life and there is only one friend that I know of that can do that without failure and that is Jesus Christ. Putting our hope and trust in anyone other than Christ is simply idolatry. It doesn't matter if this person is your mother, father, brother, sister, mentor or friend, if you or I attempt to gain love, meaning or purpose from these relationships, we are guilty of idolatry and are not worthy of Christ.



Finding God's Favor

- † The traditional church has adopted a vein philosophy of becoming friends, or partnering, with so called brothers, even if they are immoral, jealous, have other gods before God, gossips, drunkards or to obtain money or property by fraud/deceit. Somehow the church has turned this into permission based evangelism. The problem with this kind of stinky thinking is that it violates a mandate given to us in the Word.
- † *I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world. But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler--not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church? But those who are outside, God judges. REMOVE THE WICKED MAN FROM AMONG YOURSELVES. (1Co 5:9-13)*
- † First of all, this passage is not addressing an association with the unsaved but rather those who say they are saved but are not or those that are indwelt but don't live as believers. This requires a judgment call that only Christ can reveal in and through us. Judgment is a nasty word to the emergent world of Christianity. This passage makes it clear that it is God's job to judge those outside the body of Christ and it is our job to provide proper and Biblical judgment to those who are, or claim to be, inside the body of Christ. There is no other way to read this passage.

Associating or becoming friends with a so called believer is dangerous and out right against the guidance of the Word – all under the emergent banner of love and acceptance of others. If God loves and accepts all these individuals, why does He send the lions share to Hell? Few emergent Christians I talk to have an answer to this. In fact most say that either Hell does not exist or God would never send anyone to Hell. Really? Friendship with the world is hostility toward God and those that God is hostile toward do not come unto Heaven.

God's Enemy Is Not His Friend

Not really sure how much more He can make this mandate more relevant. God does not bring His enemies into Heaven – that is an outrageous thought. The only ones He brings into eternal life (Heaven) are those that have been redeemed, cleansed, purified, and made new in and through His Son – it is only through this redemptive act that grants us the privilege to embrace His love, acceptance & friendship. Why is this simple principle so difficult for believers to accept? I will tell you why – many believers refuse to align themselves with the Truth that Jesus did not come to bring worldly peace in relationships but rather to separate His chosen Bride from the world, grow her in all aspects of Himself in order to bring her unto the home He has prepared for her in Heaven. People cannot accept these simple truths because the love they have for their significant other is more than what they have for their savior – Jesus Christ (**Study Matt. 10:35-38**).

IDENTITY MATTERS

In saying all this, should we not be friendly toward others? God forbid! We are mandated by our Lord to release the Spirit from within us to give His fruit to all – saved or not. We should always use kindness to lead others to repentance so they too can have all the love and acceptance they need but know this, they can only have this once they are placed in Christ. If each of the children of God (born-again) released the Spirit's outpouring of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control onto others, the receiver should want what the believer has and ask how they can get it. These kind and friendly manifestations of the indwelling Spirit are for the purpose of leading the lost to the indwelling life of Christ.

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SOCIAL AREA OF LIFE