

We All Need A Loyal Friend We Can Trust

Until we see Christianity as a friendship with Jesus Christ we have **not** begun to understand the heart of Christianity at all.

The whole purpose of our creation is to become people who can experience an intimate relationship with our Creator.

The first humans were directed to have a very intimate relationship with each other.

Genesis 2:20 [NIV] *“So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam **no suitable helper** was found.”*

The Hebrew translated “*suitable helper*” is from a root word meaning to complete or surround.

Adam was incomplete without Eve, and the intimate relationship was going to make them as one.

Genesis 2:24 [NIV] *“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will **become one flesh**.”*

All humans are incomplete without God [Jesus Christ] in their lives.

John 15:4-8 [NIV] *“Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. **Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me**. “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; **apart from me you can do nothing**. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. **This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.**”*

Adam and Eve became one in order to produce fruit [children]. We as Christians, Christ’s future bride, are also to bear fruit.

John 15:16 [NIV] *“**You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.**”*

Fruit that is eternal, the only fruit that is eternal is character.

When young I never understood any of this relationship that God wanted to have with me.

I thought of Christianity as an outworn creed, a dreary set of rules, or the habit of going to church, that building down the street.

I never realised that Jesus Christ, after Whom Christianity is named, wanted to become my personal friend.

Indeed it was not until I had committed my life to Him that I came to see what a wonderful friend He could be.

Jesus Christ is a friend who loves and cares for me, who forgives time and time again when I stumble into sin.

Jesus Christ feels for me in times of suffering and temptation.

Jesus Christ is the One who guides and leads me and who has promised He will never leave me, whatever may happen.

Jesus Christ can be for us all a permanent object of our trust and affections in an age that is forever shifting and temporary.

Matthew 11:19 [NIV] *“The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ But wisdom is proved right by her actions.”*

One of the greatest, unintended compliments given to Jesus is that He is called “*the friend of sinners.*”

This remark was intended to be an insult but it is a glorious truth.

Jesus Christ’s love and compassion are such that He longs to be the friend of those who are breaking His laws and rebelling against Him.

If at this moment you want to have nothing to do with Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ still wants to be your friend.

If you are determined to turn your back on Him and go your own way.

Jesus Christ still wants to be your friend.

If you are full of arguments and excuses why you don’t believe and won’t believe what Jesus tells us.

Jesus Christ still wants to be your friend.

If you are treating Him like a servant, keeping Him in reserve in case you may one day need His help.

Jesus Christ still wants to be your friend.

Romans 5:6, 8 [NIV] *“You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.” ... “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**”*

While we were still sinners and powerless to change, Christ died for all of us.

What does such an act of love show about Jesus Christ?

John 15:12-16 [NIV] *“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. **Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.** You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, **I have called you friends,** for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. **You did not choose me, but I chose you** and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.”*

Such an act of love was for us His friends, and it was Jesus Christ who chose to be our friend.

Jesus Christ is the friend of sinners, like you and I.

Luke 5:27-32 [NIV] *“After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. “Follow me,” Jesus said to him, and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and ‘sinners’?” Jesus answered them, **“It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”***

The very reason why Jesus Christ came to this earth in the form of a human being was to make it possible for those who are sick with sin to be healed and helped to begin a new life as His friend.

To become one who is His disciple, one who follows His way of life.

It is those who are shown their sins by looking at the life and work of Jesus Christ who are led to repentance, a changed life.

Not those who are self-righteous, as the scribes and Pharisees were in Christ's day, or the "self-made" people in society today.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 [NIV] *"Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things, and the things that are not, to nullify the things that are, so that no-one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God, that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."*

My only boast is what Jesus Christ as my friend has done in me and is doing through me a work of reconciliation, so that others may come to know Him, worship Him and love Him as a friend.

Jesus Christ is inviting you to join Him in what is the most important work in the universe.

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