

October 26 & 27  
**You've Got a Friend in Me**

**I. The Christ-following life is a RELATIONAL life.**

A. Love God & Love People - Mark 12:29-31

B. When you make your relationship with Jesus your 1st priority, it can help make all your OTHER relationships work.

**II. Paul gives us a HISTORY lesson into friendship with God.**

*Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, (Rom. 5:18a)*

We see no religion, no rituals, just relationship.

**III. Jesus changed EVERYTHING.**

*... but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone. (Rom. 5:18b)*

*"For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God." (Rom. 5:10-11 NLT)*

**IV. What kind of friend do we have in Jesus?**

A. A FORGIVING friend

*You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom. 5:6-8)*

B. A LOYAL friend

*"And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation. For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son." (Rom. 5:9-10)*

"God did the unthinkable thing in sending his son to die for us ...Now that we are his friends, reconciled to him...God is not about to abandon us after all." - NT Wright

C. An ETERNAL friend

*... now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom. 5:21)*

As each of us grows closer to Jesus, we INCH closer to one another.

**V. Our response to this overture of friendship.**

A. To say YES to a friendship with Jesus!

B. Ask yourself am I behaving like a FAN or a follower?

"To accept Christ in anything like a saving relationship is to have an attachment to the Person of Christ that is revolutionary, complete, and exclusive!" - AW Tozer

C. In response the greatest overture of love from Christ, let us not only be friends but FOLLOWERS!

*We throw open our doors to God and discover at the same moment that he has already thrown open his door to us. We find ourselves standing where we always hoped we might stand—out in the wide open spaces of God's grace and glory. (Rom. 5:2 The Message)*