



12 - 19 May, 2019

Relationships

**‘A loyal friend is like a safe shelter; find one,
and you have found a treasure. Nothing else is as valuable;
There is no way of putting a price on it’ Sirach 6: 14-15**

**‘I believe that friendship is the most important thing
on earth’ Charles Malik**

**As children of God, we build good relationships with our brothers and sisters
(Sir 6:5-17)**

- † Jesus taught us to love one another (*Mat 7:12*). He moreover said that I will judge you according to your relationship with others (*Mat 25:31-46*)
- † We can not love God if we do not love one another. But that does not mean that all relationships are true friendships (*1Joh 4:20*)
- † True friends are rare because we live in the world, which is not ours. We live as foreigners here on earth. It is in the Kingdom of Heaven, our eternal homeland, where there will only be true friends everywhere

There are two kinds of friendship (1Sam 18-20)

- † Good and true friendship, which is constructive and has benefits (*Sir 12: 14*)
- † Bad and worldly friendship which is destructive and has only drawbacks (*1Cor 15:33*)

All relationships have friendship as their base

- † Jesus called us to be His brothers and sisters and His friend too
- † Relationships branch out from our relationship with Christ; whether friends, spouses, parents and children, business
- † The word ‘friend’ is found about ninety times in the Bible. We have a responsibility in choosing our friends which Jesus appointed to us in Mat 18: 15-17

Jesus is the Ultimate Friend

He gave all He has to His friends, even death, to save them (*Joh 3:16-18, Jn 15*)

Friendship and the shape of the Cross

✝ Our relationship with God is revealed through our relationship with others

The following checklist might help. Friendship is mutually all of the below

- Respecting the other the way he is (*1 Pet 2:17*)
- Desiring the best for the other (*Mat 8:5-13*)
- Loving at all times (*Pro 17:17; 1 Cor 13*)
- Honesty and transparency (*Eph 4:25*)
- Truthfulness; not keeping secrets. Jesus, our ideal friend revealed all the secrets of the Kingdom of heaven to us (*Joh 15:15*)
- Praying together, because no relation exists if God is not at its center (*Mat 18:20*)
- Giving without calculating (*Act 20:35*)
- Joyful companionship
- Speaking words of encouragement only (*Eph 4: 29*)
- Asking forgiveness for any wrong doing (*Jam 5:16*)
- Correcting the other & hating what is *evil* (*Mat 18:15*)
- Not getting jealous or envious, not wishing to be first (*Mat 20:1-16*)
- Sincerely supporting in trials, in sad and good moments (*2 Cor 1:4*)
- Leading each other to Jesus (*2 Tim 4:2*)

Examples of friendship in the Bible

1. Jesus and Lazarus
2. David and Jonathan (*1 Sam 18:1-3*)

Unity among the Body of Christ

- ✝ ‘Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for a brethren to dwell together in unity!’ Psalm 133:1
- ✝ This verse anticipates the prayer of Jesus for His disciples and eventually for all of us in John 17: 9-12: ‘I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name’
- ✝ How are we glorifying Jesus Christ and the Father in our daily life? How are we allowing the Holy Spirit to work in us and through us
- ✝ Cliqing works against the unity among the body of Christ, that is the community of believers that He had so fervently prayed for

refers to mandatory readings

Verse to memorize

'Those who fear the Lord will direct their friendships well, because they will associate with people of like mind' Sirach 6:17

References

1. <http://www.believersweb.org/view.cfm?ID=32>
2. <http://www.biblequestions.org/Archives/BQAR353.htm>
3. <http://www.friendship.com.au/quotes/quobib.html>

During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

1. seeking the Lord's will to be done in Lebanon
2. for CrossTalk to find a locale
3. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim
4. to become more of saints and less of sinners
5. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think
6. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth
7. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him
8. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor
9. to all the sick
10. to all those in prison
11. to the unity of the Christians
12. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity
13. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management
14. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them
15. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights
16. to the situation in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and the whole region

During this coming week, we will lift the Greek Catholic Church in prayer

الصلاة الربانية
أبانا الذي في السماوات
ليتقدس إسمك
ليأت ملكوتك
لتكن مشيئتك
كما في السماء
كذلك على الأرض
أعطنا خبزنا كفاف يومنا
وأغفر لنا خطايانا
كما تغفر نحن
ليمن أساء إلينا
ولا تدخلنا في التجارب
لكن نجنا من الشرير
أمين

قانون الايمان
أؤمن بآله واحد
أب ضابط الكل
خالق السماء والأرض
كل ما يرى وما لا يرى
ويرب واحد يسوع المسيح
ابن الله الوحيد
المولود من الأب قبل كل الدهور
نور من نور، إله حق من إله حق
مولود غير مخلوق
مساوي للأب في الجوهر
الذي به كان كل شيء
الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر ومن أجل خلاصنا
نزل من السماء
وتجسد من الروح القدس ومن مريم العذراء
وتأنس
وصُلب عنا على عهد بيلاطس البنطي
وتألم وقبر
وقام في اليوم الثالث كما في الكتب
وصعد إلى السماء
وجلس عن يمين الأب
وأيضاً يأتي بمجد عظيم
ليدين الأحياء والأموات
الذي لا فناء لملكه
وبالروح القدس
الرب المحيي
المنبثق من الأب
الذي هو مع الأب والابن
مسجود له وممجّد
الناطق بالأنبياء
وبكنيسة واحدة، جامعة، مقدسة، رسولية
وأعترف بعمودية واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا
وأترجى قيامة الموتى والحياة في الدهر الآتي
أمين