**Being A Friend**

One of the biggest ways people transgress the second greatest commandment is by not having true love. They expect love, but do not give love, or give it according to their personal standards. For example, many who care for another person, FEEL that they can say anything they want or communicate and do whatever they want. “You know I didn’t mean that,” or “nobody is perfect,” WHICH IS simply obligating someone else and seeking FOR FORGIVENESS, rather than being a true brother, friend, sister, mother, father, wife or husband and giving true love. TRUE LOVE prevents us from hurting or sinning against a friend: **Ecclesiasticus 22:21-22, Matthew 18:5-6**, or even a stranger: **Leviticus 19:33-34**.

**Proverbs 18:24 A man that hath friends MUST SHEW HIMSELF FRIENDLY: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.**

(If you are a true friend, family-member, or love someone, DO kind and considerate things. Carefully think before you speak to them. Being truly considerate, IS BETTER than saying sorry.)

**IJohn 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.**

(LOVING WORDS are easy to say; but true love is shown only by actions, with words that are blameless.)

**Matthew 7:5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.**

The better person you are, the better friend you will be. In other words, FIX yourself, by keeping the commandments of the LORD truly: **Psalms 19:7, Luke 22:32**, THEN you can be a true friend.

**Ecclesiasticus 6:17 Whoso feareth the Lord shall direct his friendship aright: for as he is, SO SHALL HIS NEIGHBOUR BE also.**

(Proverbs 17:17 A friend LOVETH AT ALL TIMES, and a brother IS BORN FOR adversity.)

Never forget that during hard times and adversity, is when a wife, husband, family member, AND FRIEND actually proves their love and friendship. This means YOU, not just others for your benefit!

\*As a true friend, YOU MUST tell the TRUTH\*

**Ephesians 4:25 Wherefore PUTTING AWAY LYING, speak every man TRUTH with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.**

(Proverbs 26:28 A lying tongue HATETH THOSE that are afflicted by it; and a FLATTERING MOUTH worketh ruin.

NEVER VOW/promise to do something, because it is a sin when not completed, and afflicts others also:

**Ecclesiasticus 20:23 There is that for bashfulness promiseth to his friend, AND MAKETH HIM his enemy for nothing.**

(If you say you are going to do it, DO IT! Instead of “promising” and NOT coming through.)

**:24 A lie IS A FOUL BLOT in a man, yet IT IS CONTINUALLY IN THE MOUTH of the untaught.**

**Proverbs 27:6 Faithful are THE WOUNDS of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy ARE DECEITFUL.**

(As a true friend, you are VERY IMPORTANT! Your words, counsel, advice, love and CORRECTION mean something. Do not shirk that responsibility for fear your friend may get upset; they will: **Proverbs 15:10**. But, that is why TRUE love is not always easy: **Proverbs 28:23**. However, friendship or marriage should never be hard because your SINS cause problems, or your withholding of correction: **Leviticus 19:17-18**.)

**Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man BE OVERTAKEN in a fault, ye which are spiritual, RESTORE such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also BE TEMPTED.**

(MANY correct, rebuke or bring forth faults only when they are upset or have lost their temper, which prevents proper communication or actually helping our bro, sis, any loved one, or a stranger. Humbly correct to help and edify, NOT to humiliate or embarrass, EVEN WHEN rebuking sharply.)

**Philippians 2:4 Look not every man on his own things, but EVERY MAN ALSO ON the things of others.**

(IF YOU ARE SELFISH, YOU WILL NEVER HAVE A TRUE FRIEND, or maintain friendship. So being selfish, for a righteous man or woman MUST BE repented of yesterday, in order to serve the LORD. Again, not what you think is acceptable, or how your mind works, but what the word of truth commands us!)

WORDS are weapons, and also REVEAL the heart of a person: **Matthew 15:18**. Have a good heart:

**Ecclesiasticus 28:13 The stroke of the whip maketh marks in the flesh: but THE STROKE of the TONGUE BREAKETH the bones.**

(“sticks and stone may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.” Follow truth, not nursery rhymes!)

**Matthew 5:22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother WITHOUT A CAUSE shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: BUT WHOSOEVER SHALL SAY, Thou fool, shall be in danger OF HELL FIRE.**

(Because being disrespectful, insulting people and saying cruel words show an arrogant and evil heart.)

Love and truly caring, AGAIN, is by keeping the commandments of the LORD in WORD and DEED. A liar cannot love, nor can bringing someone pain BECAUSE YOU HAVE SUFFERED ever be a proper way to love anyone! Fix yourself, and humbly learn how to love, or improve so you can always increase in love:

Romans 13:8 **Owe no man any thing**, but to love one another: for **he that loveth another hath fulfilled** the law.

:9 **FOR THIS**, **Thou shalt not** commit adultery, **Thou shalt not** kill, **Thou shalt not** steal, **Thou shalt not** bear false witness, **Thou shalt not** covet; and if **there be any other commandment**, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, **Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself**.

:10 **Love worketh no ill** to his neighbour: **therefore love is the** fulfilling of the law.

All glory, honor and obedience to our Heavenly Father through our Messiah Christ, for showing us TRUTH and HOW TO LOVE: **IJohn 4:8**.

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