**Brotherly Love, Friendship**

**Matthew 18:6 But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.**

**:7 Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!**

(Beware of offending brothers. It is gravely serious and an evil we MUST be diligent to NEVER do, even as imperfect men. Offending a brother in this scripture is NOT a minor misunderstanding or what the Master referred to in **Matthew 18:22 “forgive a brother seventy times seven.”** Offenses in Matthew 18:6-7 are major or treacherous wounds, devilish behavior, disgusting errors and gross mistakes.)

**Proverbs 3:29 Devise not evil against thy neighbour, seeing he dwelleth securely by thee.**

(Being deceitful and sneaky or following others to do evil is NEVER to be done, because your brother ALWAYS seeks refuge with his brethren and friends. He lets his guard down, therefore the wound from a friend and loved one is greater, more hurtful and deeper. Therefore, WE MUST NOT do it.)

**Proverbs 18:19 A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle.** (This wisdom prevents us from hurting and offending brothers. A treacherous wound, deceit, and injustices are hard to overcome. True friends are hard to find, or replace.)

**IPeter 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:**

**:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.**

(When we are actually spiritual we will OBEY THE TRUTH, which is shown by love of the brethren; a pure sincere, undying and continuous affection and caring. Being born again CANNOT OCCUR without true love AND a pure mind.)

**Ecclesiasticus 22:20 Whoso casteth a stone at the birds frayeth them away: and he that upbraideth his friend breaketh friendship.**

(If you shame or disgrace a friend when rebuking them, or grossly offend, neglect or insult them, you will end friendships.)

**:21 Though thou drewest a sword at thy friend, yet despair not: for there may be a returning to favour.**

(There MAY be a reconciling, but as a man of understanding, don’t pull a knife or gun on your brother.)

**:22 If thou hast opened thy mouth against thy friend, fear not; for there may be a reconciliation: EXCEPT FOR upbraiding, or pride, or disclosing of secrets, or a treacherous wound: for for these things every friend will depart.**

(dishonorably shaming a friend, being arrogant, LYING, being untrustworthy and telling their secrets, or wounding them in a vile and evil manner will make ALL friends end their friendship with you)

**:23 Be faithful to thy neighbour in his poverty, that thou mayest rejoice in his prosperity: abide stedfast unto him in the time of his trouble, that thou mayest be heir with him in his heritage: for a mean estate is not always to be contemned: nor the rich that is foolish to be had in admiration.** (Be loyal to your friends in their suffering and times of need, so that you can also remain friends during his prosperity. Poverty is not to always be frowned upon or hated, neither a wealthy derelict to be respected.)

**Proverbs 17:17 A friend LOVETH AT ALL times, and a brother is born for adversity.** (When you friend is NOT prospering, that is when you prove your friendship and loyalty. A friend or brother is born and appears when adversity and suffering happen to our friends and brothers. Be a comfort, NOT a fake friend, or an ENEMY by your ACTIONS)

**Ecclesiasticus 37:12 But be continually with a godly man, WHOM THOU KNOWEST to keep the commandments of the Lord, whose, mind is according to thy mind, and WILL SORROW WITH THEE, if thou shalt miscarry.**

(A true friend will apply the LORD’S words truly, and will be happy when you are happy, NOT envious or jealous, and will be sad when you are sad.)

**Mark 7:22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:**

(EVIL EYE: evil SUSPICIONS, being judgmental and maliciously assuming the worse concerning others, friends, family or strangers is how to NEVER be a brother. Mortify and kill those thoughts or behaviors the moment they appear in your mind and actions, or else they will defile and corrupt you.)

**Proverbs 18:24 A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.** (We cannot be selfish, but MUST look out for others. Be a true friend, not greedy, only about yourself, proud, or never accepting or admitting our errors. Do kind things, be considerate!

**Philippians 2:4**.)

**ICorinthians 13:11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.**

(Following men instead of following the Lord, insulting, making jokes at another’s expense, NOT controlling our mouths, quoting scriptures and NOT applying them, giving EXCUSES for evil actions but being QUICK to judge others or have evil suspicions of others, being a FOLLOWER! These are some childish behaviors that MUST be STOPPED and repented of, in order to be a brother or friend.)

**Ecclesiasticus 7:11 Laugh no man to scorn in the bitterness of his soul: for THERE IS ONE which humbleth and exalteth.**

(**IIEsdras 2:21**. NEVER laugh at a friend’s pain, or find humor in their embarrassment or suffering. That is NOT the action of a true friend or brother/sister. Insults and cruel jokes are sinful, even when you do them, **Matthew 5:22**!)

Our mind has to be on NOT offending or grievously wounding a husband, wife, brother, sister, friend or stranger. Even though we are all imperfect, by truly understanding the second greatest commandment (“love thy neighbor as thyself”) we will always be mindful of showing love and applying truth in wisdom. NOT cruelty, hate, OFFENDING then QUOTING forgiveness scriptures, IF we truly are a friend or brother.

Luke 17:3 Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.

(If offended by a friend, brother or sister, and they repent, forgive them. The Master advised us, “I send you forth as sheep in the midst of WOLVES, be ye therefore wise as serpents, harmless as doves.” FORGIVE a brother or sister that truly repents, BECAUSE they PROVED themselves NOT a wolf!)

David did not HATE or seek revenge against Saul, but he was also WISE as a serpent in righteousness, and STAYED far from evil Saul.

All glory, honor, praises and wisdom to our Father and Creator, the Ancient of Days, and our Lord, Messiah and King Christ.

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