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## Sunday School Outline, 03.15.26

### “What Does God’s Word Say About That?”

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#### Friendship

**“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”**

John 15:13–17, Romans 5:8, 1 John 3:16

1. The Necessity of Sovereign Reconciliation - Because of sin, we have been alienated, separated, and do not have fellowship with God. In fact, we are enemies of God; therefore, we stand in dire need of reconciliation. In Christ, God has reconciled us (believing ones) to Himself. (Genesis 3:1–8, 24; Romans 5:10; Colossians 1:21; Ephesians 2:12; 2 Corinthians 5:18–19; James 2:23; Genesis 15:6; Romans 4:3)
  
2. Therefore, let us not be deceived (1 Corinthians 15:33) and avoid befriending:
  - a. Mr. Fool — Proverbs 13:20; Proverbs 14:7; Proverbs 1:10; Psalm 1:1
  - b. Mr. Gossiper — Proverbs 16:28; Proverbs 11:13; Proverbs 20:19; Leviticus 19:16
  - c. Mr. Angry — Proverbs 22:24–25; Proverbs 29:22; Psalm 37:8; Proverbs 14:29
  - d. Mr. Immoral — 1 Corinthians 5:11; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; 2 John 1:10
  - e. Mr. Proud — Proverbs 29:23; Proverbs 16:18; Proverbs 13:10
  - f. Mr. Lazy — Proverbs 6:6–11; 2 Thessalonians 3:10; Proverbs 20:4; Proverbs 24:30–34
  - g. Mr. Deceiver — 2 Timothy 3:5; Romans 16:17; Ephesians 5:6–7
  - h. Examples of ungodly friendship:
    - i. Jonadab and Ammon, leading to sin (2 Samuel 13:1–5, 14–15, 28–29)
    - ii. Judas, leading to betrayal of Christ (Matthew 26:14–16, 47–50)
    - iii. Friendship with the world is enmity (James 4:4, 1 John 2:15–16, John 15:19)
  
3. Because we have been reconciled to God in Christ—
  - a. We must be wise and biblically discerning in choosing our friends — Proverbs 13:20; 1 Corinthians 15:33–34; Proverbs 17:17
  - b. We must reserve friendship for those who fear the Lord — Psalm 119:63; Psalm 112:1; Psalm 119:115
  - c. Befriend those who will sharpen and build you up in the faith — Proverbs 27:17; Hebrews 10:24–25; 1 Thessalonians 5:11
  
4. Because we have been reconciled to God in Christ, we must seek to possess/practice these attributes of a biblical friend—all of which find their perfection in the Lord Jesus Christ:
  - a. Speak truth in love — Proverbs 27:6; Ephesians 4:15; Proverbs 27:5
  - b. Seek to be loyal — Proverbs 17:17; Proverbs 18:24; Ruth 1:16
  - c. Sacrificially give of yourself — John 15:13; 1 John 3:16; Philippians 2:3
  - d. Forgive others — Colossians 3:13; Ephesians 4:32; Luke 17:3
  - e. Weep with those who weep; comfort those who need comfort — Romans 12:15; John 11:33–36; 2 Corinthians 1:3–4
  - f. Seek to edify and not tear down — Hebrews 10:24–25; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Proverbs 27:17
  - g. Walk in agreement and unity — Psalm 133:1; Philippians 2:2; Amos 3:3

- h. Examples of godly friendship:
  - i. David and Jonathan, demonstration of support, and sacrificial love (1 Samuel 18:1–3; 1 Samuel 20:41–42; Proverbs 18:24)
  - ii. Ruth and Naomi, demonstration of loyalty amidst nothing to gain (Ruth 1:16–17; 2:11–12; Ruth 4:15; Proverbs 17:17)
  
- 5. Friendship with the Opposite Sex
  - a. Non-romantic/purely platonic friendships must be rooted in purity (1 Timothy 5:1–2) and with the goal of ministry productivity.
    - i. The Lord Jesus models this for us in His relationship with Lazarus’s sisters (John 11:1–44; John 12:1–3) and with other women (Luke 8:1–3).
    - ii. The Apostle Paul models this with women laboring alongside him (Romans 16:1–2, 6, 12; Philippians 4:2–3; Acts 18:24–26; Romans 16:3–4). Our principle must be: “For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother” (Mark 3:35).
  - b. Friendship that has the Lord Jesus Christ as its foundation can lead to the highest intimate form of friendship—marriage—Amos 3:3; Song of Solomon 5:16; 2 Corinthians 6:14–16; Ephesians 5:31–32