

Lesson Notes:

God's Guide to Friendship

2 Timothy 1:9 and Romans 8:28 tells us that we are all called according to God's purpose. We cannot fulfill that purpose without being a Godly Friend to one another. Following are principles for being a Godly friend:

Scriptural Principles

- 1) **No Man or Woman is an Island.** – God says in **Genesis 2:18** that Man should not dwell alone. Therefore, we are not designed to go through life devoid of relationships. **2 Timothy 1:9** tells us that God has a purpose for all of us. One purpose for our existence is to minister and to be friends to one another.

Keys to being a Godly Friend

- 2) **Good Friends come to one another's aid** - Solomon tells us in **Ecclesiastes 4:9-12** that two are better than one and we need to be prepared to come to the aid of one another.
- 3) **Good friends encourage one another** – All of us face difficulties in life. **Hebrews 10:24-25** and **Romans 15:14** tells us the importance being there for each other and encouraging one another as we face our daily challenges.
- 4) **God wants us to pray for one another.** – **James 5:16** encourages us to name each other in prayer and to remember each other as we go to the Lord in prayer.
- 5) **Don't be judgmental.** – Jesus tells us in **Matthew 7:1-4** not to be quick to point out the failures or sins of another while ignoring our own issues.
- 6) **Be willing to bare your friend's burden** – Paul tells us in **Galatians 6:2** to share one another's burdens. Paul tells us in **Romans 14:13** not to put a stumbling block in your brother's way and in **Galatians 5:13** that God has liberated us to serve one another.
- 7) **Let bygones be bygones** – Solomon tells us in **Proverbs 17:9** not to dwell upon the past transgressions of others.
- 8) **Be willing to provide Godly advice** – Solomon tells us in **Proverbs 27:9** to be willing to share Godly advice to a sister or brother that is slipping away.
- 9) **A Godly example of deeply committed friendship: Paul & Timothy** – Paul loved Timothy as a son. Paul had left Timothy in the leadership role at the church at Ephesus at a time in which the church was facing revolt and heresy. Paul expresses his admiration and respect for Timothy in **1 Timothy 1:2-3. In 2**

Timothy 1:2-3 Paul indicates that he prays both day and night for his brother in Christ. This is a wonderful example of the friendship God intends us to have for one another.