



## Friends of the King

2 Cor. 5:9 (NIV®)

So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.

### I. Choosing Friends

#### A. Friendship is about choices

1. Friendship to God --- befriending His friends

Psalm 119:63 (NIV®)

I am a friend to all who fear you, to all who follow your precepts.

John 15:14-16 (NIV®)

**You are my friends if** you do what I command. [15] I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. [16] **You did not choose me, but I chose you** and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

2. Common Enemies

James 4:4 (NIV®)

You adulterous people, don't you know that **friendship with the world is hatred toward God**? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

#### B. Chosen ---"**You did not choose me, but I chose you** and appointed you"

1. Two Specific groups which God has chosen ---

a. The Jewish People ---

Exodus 19:5-6 (NIV®)

. . . then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, [6] you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'

1 Samuel 8:19-20 (NIV®)

But the people refused to listen to Samuel. "No!" they said. "We want a king over us. [20] Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles."

b. The Church

1 Peter 2:9 (NASB®)

But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal priesthood, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Acts 10:34-35 (NIV®)

Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism [35] but **accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.**

### II. Love What God Loves ---

A. From God's Perspective:

He Loved Jesus --- we must "learn" to love Jesus

## 1. Water Baptism

Mark 1:11 (NIV®)

And a voice came from heaven: "**You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.**"

## 2. Transfiguration

Mark 9:7 (NIV®)

Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: "**This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!**"

## B. The Spirit of Antichrist

Acts 5:17-18, 40-41 (NIV®)

Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. [18] They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. . . . They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. [41] **The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.**

## III. The "One Another" Rules:

### A. Tolerant & Forgiving.

Col. 3:13 (NIV®)

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against **one another**. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

### B. Encouragers.

1 Thes. 5:11 (The Message®)

So speak encouraging words to **one another**. Build up hope so you'll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind.

### C. Community.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (The Message®)

Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshiping together as some do but spurring each other on, especially as we see the big Day approaching.

### D. Hospitality.

1 Peter 4:9 (NIV®)

Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

### E. Service.

Galatians 5:13 (The Message®)

It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life. Just make sure that you don't use this freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom. Rather, **use your freedom to serve one another in love; that's how freedom grows.**

## IV. The Benefits

Romans 8:31-32 (NIV®)

If God is for us, who can be against us? [32] He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

Isaiah 59:1 (NIV®)

Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear.

## Prayer

Heavenly Father, Thank You for choosing me as Your own. Holy Spirit help me to know the love of my Heavenly Father, the fullness of being accepted in Christ and the majesty of the Kingdom into which I have been welcomed. I rejoice in the faithfulness of my God and the mercy of my Redeemer, amen.

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