



## TIME OF GRACE®

### *Friend Request: Different Kinds of Friends*

#### Study Notes

#### *Summary*

What does it mean to find a Christian friend? Is that the same thing as being part of the fellowship of a church? This message explores what it means to have friends who share your faith as well as the important distinction between the fellowship of Christians and the self-selected blessing called friendship.

- “One who wants more than what Christ has established does not want Christian brotherhood. He is looking for some extraordinary social experience which he has not found elsewhere.”—Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- “The oftentimes freely swinging barn door of relationships we find in our churches today suggests that we might not fully take seriously the implications of the fact that Jesus’ call to love one another is, first and foremost, a divine command.”—David Horn
- Christians must remember the difference between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- **Mark 3:16-19:** These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter), James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means “sons of thunder”), Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.
- **Mark 5:37:** He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James.
- **Mark 9:2:** After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them.
- **Mark 14:32,33:** They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled.

- **John 13:22-24:** His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, “Ask him which one he means.”
- Friendship includes a *few* \_\_\_\_\_.
- **Matthew 5:46-48:** If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.
- Friendship includes *all* \_\_\_\_\_.
- **Ephesians 2:12,13:** Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

### *Points to Ponder*

1. Put yourself in the sandals of a disciple of Jesus like Thomas. How would you have felt if you weren't in Jesus' inner circle like Peter, James, and John? What would you have to tell your heart in order to avoid accusing the sinless Son of God of sinning?
2. Reread Matthew 5:46-48. What would it look like for your church to carry out Jesus' words? What would be different for you next Sunday if you put them into practice?
3. Why is your friendship with Jesus essential for lasting and untouchable joy?

### *Homework for Next Week*

Google “Bible passages on friendship,” and dig into God's truth on becoming a great friend.

*“[The believers] continued to hold firmly to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of the bread, and to the prayers.”*

*—Acts 2:42 EHV*