

Friendship with God

Jesus told his disciples that they weren't servants, but friends.¹ Friendship with God is what he's after, not servitude. Serving comes out of friendship – we serve because we love him and comply with his directives.

This is the case for a bond-servant² as well. A bond-servant is a choice to be bonded to the King as his life is better than the life we could make for ourselves. A bond-servant in the Kingdom is not a slave, but a function that's based on a decision that's been made. Genuine sons are all bond-servants, even if they don't make the decision – it's in their heart-felt attitude towards him.

Friendship with God is about a mature relationship, not juvenile frivolity or feeling warm and fuzzy. This is only achieved on his terms. It's not about our outside (our status, what we do and say), but our inside (who we are, who he is to us). It comes from the inside presence of the Spirit and a longing to be wholly his and for him to transform us so we are like him.

Genuine friendship with God may start simple, but that's not where he wants it to stay. He desires us to become like him so that he can release us into his spiritual work on Earth. This release can only come as radical transformation takes place in us through his power, we can't do it. The fruit, of course, is that through friendship we take on his appearance – we become like him.

Remember, friendship with God is the opposite to friendship with the world which makes us his enemy.³

Friendship with God contrasts with religion which is about doing things to try to please God out of fear because he gets angry quickly.

LISTEN: “Our Journey to Friendship with God 3” Terry Bennett..... [1:05:08–1:17:45]
soundcloud.com/terrybennettministries/our-journey-to-friendship-part-2

Full series here: terrybennett.net/sermons/our-journey-to-friendship

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1 – John 15:15

2 – Romans 1:1; Ephesians 6:6; James 1:1 (Philippians 2:7)

3 – James 4:4