

## GOD AS FATHER AND FRIEND

Romans 5:1-11

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** A Christian is a person who has been born into the family of God, therefore God has become "father" to that person. Some fathers maintain a distance from their children, thinking that it is needed to maintain the proper "respect" and "obedience" of the children and seldom, if ever do anything with them that might be defined as a "friend with friend" thing. However with God, He is very different for He wants His children to feel free to come to Him at anytime without fear, knowing that He is always ready to listen and help. God also wants to be involved in the lives of His children, do things with the, go places with them, listen to them, be a part of their everyday lives. God wants to be our heavenly Father but also our Friend.

### 1. To be with God as God wants, there must first be peace between God and His child. (v1)

- Children sometimes act in a way that cause a "rift" or a distance to occur between them and their parents.
- Are YOU and God at peace with each other?
- Being at peace with God is not how WE want things to be, it is how GOD wants things to be.
- One's faith in God's Son, Jesus, brings one into God's family but how have things been since that time?

### 2. God wants His Children to come to Him anytime. (v2)

- Christians have access to God like no other time in history, with the exception of Adam and Eve when they were in the garden of Eden.
- God only showed Himself in times past in a cloud, or a cloud of fire, or thunder, lightning, voice, etc. but with the Church age, the time of Christians, God is so much more available to His Children.
- God's Son, Jesus changed the past of separation between God and His Children to the free access we have today.
- God is never too busy to not have time for His Children and wants His Children to come to Him anytime they want to.

### 3. Christians have a hope that nobody else has. (v2)

- God wants all His Children with Him someday in Heaven and has already made the plans.
- Every Christian should look forward to going to heaven to be with God.
- Why would any Christian want to stay here rather than go to heaven and be free from all the entanglements and trials of this world? But there are many who want to stay here.
- If God has been not only a Father, but a Friend also to a Christian, that Christian will be anxious to leave this world and go to be with God his/her Father and Friend.
- Are YOU afraid to die? Are you really looking forward to your REAL home?

### 4. God is with His Children in their troubles. (vv3-4)

- God allows His Children to have difficulties and troubles in order for them to learn and grow.
- Remember Joseph? Sold into slavery, yet God was with him all that time, but in the end Joseph became a great man and brought his family to be with him. God had a purpose for all the troubles Joseph went through.
- Being a Christian, a child of God doesn't shield or free one from life's problems, but the Christian has someone with him/her that nobody else does - God, their Friend when troubles come.

**5. God's Children benefit from their troubles. (v3)**

- With God at their side, Christians learn how to hold out, to get through the stress and difficulties of life.
- Remember the song, "He's Still Working On Me..."? God stays with His Children all through their lives, right at their side and helps them learn, helps them grow both mentally and spiritually.
- Christians often blame God for their troubles, and sometimes God is behind what is happening to them, but it is for their own good and for God's purpose in their lives.
- God allows and even sends difficulties to His Children to help get them ready for Heaven.
  - The "real me, you" comes out during times of difficulties, revealing limitations, weaknesses, tempers, patience, attitudes, allowing the Christian to see his/her real self as God sees him/her.

**6. Christians will never be disappointed in God as their Father nor as God as their Friend because God is always present with them. (vv5-8)**

- Every one of God's Children are indwelt with His permanent presence and the presence is the Holy Spirit.
- The very moment a person believes in God's Son, Jesus, he/she is born into God's Family, becoming one of God's Children, and indwelt with the Holy Spirit.
- No matter how far a Child of God may drift away from Him, the Holy Spirit remains, stays and will never leave God's Child.
- God's love for His Children reaches far beyond their weaknesses and shortcomings.

**7. God's Children will always be safe, no matter what happens. (v9)**

- What the Bible describes as the last days of terrible times on this earth will not be experienced by God's Children for they will be snatched up and away to their heavenly home before the tribulation times on earth begin.
- God's Children worship God but also walk with God as Adam and Eve did in the Garden of Eden and are sealed with the Holy Spirit.

**8. Christians have a joy than nobody else on earth have. (vv10-11)**

- With God as their heavenly Father and friend here on earth, and indwelt with the Holy Spirit, there's nobody else on earth like a Christian.
- Once an enemy, a stranger to God, now God is Father and Friend to those who have believed in His Son, Jesus and have become God's own Children with an eternal home waiting for them in heaven.
- How one feels about God's Son, Jesus, reveals just what one's relationship with God is.
  - So, what do you think of Jesus?
- God is God, He is Father, He is Friend and He is with the Christian every moment of the Christian's life. REJOICE Christian!

**CONCLUSION:**

1. God is God! God is the Heavenly Father, but God is also a friend to His Children who are indwelt with the Holy Spirit.
2. "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," "When We All Get to Heaven"....
3. Christian, has God your Heavenly Father become your Friend also?
4. If you are not a Christian, God wants to be your heavenly Father and your Friend. How about it?