

Building Godly Alliances

Part 3

Godly Friendship

The 9 Ingredients of Godly Friendships

“The next best thing to being wise oneself is to live in a circle of those who are.”
- CS Lewis

I have outlined 9 qualities of Godly friends. As you go through these assess the quality of your friendships.

1. Godly Friends love each other.

John 15:12-14

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you.

- This means they don't use each other.
- This means they are willing to make sacrifices for the other.
- You have true friends that love each other and then you have friendships of convenience.

2. Godly Friends share deeply with each other.

John 15:15

No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

- This means they are transparent.
- This means they are not superficial.
- This means they pass on knowledge.
- Ask your friends more than two questions deep.
- Friendship should be based on mutual edification.
- Intimacy = Into me see
- Take your friendships to a new level of depth.
- Be generous with the knowledge you have.
- A lot of people tell you what they did but you can ask them how they felt when they did it.

3. Godly Friends honour each other.

Romans 12:10

Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honour.

Luke 6:31

And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

- What would you like your friends to do for you right now? Start doing that for them.
- When we give double honour to those in leadership it should stem from a basic culture of honour, where we have learnt to honour one another.
- Keep asking yourself, "Was that an honouring thing to do?"
- How are we taking each other for granted?
- Is my behaviour driven by true honour or just fear of man?

4. Godly Friends are loyal through tough times.

Job 2:11

Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that had come upon him, they came each from his own place, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. They made an appointment together to come to show him sympathy and comfort him.

Proverbs 17:17 NLT

A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need.

- Do you avoid your friends when they are going through tough times?
- Does your group of friends have a strategy to help friends in times of trouble?
- Do you have friends who are in trouble right now?

5. Godly Friends give wise counsel and advice.

Proverbs 12:26 NLT

The godly give good advice to their friends; the wicked lead them astray.

Proverbs 27:9 NLT

The heartfelt counsel of a friend is as sweet as perfume and incense.

- Often we leave the giving of advice to pastors and counsellors but the bible is clear that one of the main functions of a friend is giving heartfelt counsel.
- What was the last piece of counsel you gave a friend?
- How wise are your friends?
- Just as fathers are rare so are reliable friends.
- How reliable are you as a friend? Are you reliable in prayer?

6. Godly Friends do not entertain gossip.

Proverbs 16:28 NLT

A troublemaker plants seeds of strife; gossip separates the best of friends.

Have you grown cold toward a friend because of what someone else has said, yet you have no facts?

Develop rules of engagement in your friendships to protect yourselves from gossip. An example would be to make a commitment that if you hear of something about them from someone else you will check the facts with them before making a judgement.

7. Godly Friends are both reliable and rare treasures.

Proverbs 18:24 NLT

There are "friends" who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother.

Proverbs 20:6 NLT

Many will say they are loyal friends, but who can find one who is truly reliable?

Many claim to be friends but they need to demonstrate it.

8. Godly Friends are pure in heart gaining them friends in high places.

Proverbs 22:11 NLT

Whoever loves a pure heart and gracious speech will have the king as a friend.

How important is having a pure heart for you?

How important is it for you that your friends are pure in heart?

Can you be trusted by a king?

Would a king or CEO of your company want you to be their friend?

9. Godly Friends challenge each other by speaking the truth in love.

Proverbs 27:5-6 NLT

An open rebuke is better than hidden love! Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy.

Proverbs 27:17 NLT

As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.

How honest are your friends with you?

A lot of heads of companies are not told the truth by their subordinates.

How do you sharpen your friends?

How do your friends sharpen you?