

were sinners - Transforming power of Christ friendship - He did not call them friends at first.

Buripides: every man is like the company he keeps!

Is your life an index of the company you keep?

Mentally Educating - "All things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you"

Solomon - Prov. 13:20 - "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: But a companion of fools shall be destroyed."

Prov. 27:17 - "Iron sharpeneth iron: So a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."

Acts 4:13 - unlearned men - took knowledge they had been with Jesus.

Old Testament - 1 Sam. 18:1 - Friendship based upon "The covenant of the Lord."

1 Sam. 20:8 - Jonathan "made a covenant with the house of David" - made permanent and sealed with blood.

Friendship with Christ - sealed by blood -

Prov. 18:24 - "There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother" - and that name is Jesus.

Not uncommon thing to hear Question:

If I become a Christian, shall I not have to give up my friends? *To take*

Examine what we mean by "Friends" and Friendship!

Used today: Lonely - include social acquaintances - School - Business

Bible Usage: Synonymous with Love - Lover

Friendship undergoes a change when we think of it in terms of Christianity.

The Basis of Christian Friendship

v. 13 - Love - Spiritual and Sacrificial

Spiritual - Attention to our Lord's Love. Greater love hath

no man than this. *How do I begin?*

Whatever height human Friendship might rise - becomes Christian only when transformed into a Spiritual love.

Friendship may easily start with physical attraction - a vehicle - personal affection.

Friendship may have started with welcome smile. Prevented by unattractive appearance.

Sacrificial - Lay down his life - true friendship is ready to dare the highest good.

1 John 3:16 - Not just sentiment - infatuation. Such love cannot be formed outside the Christian circle or the fellowship

So May - Feb. 13, 1962 Praya Mukhi

of the church.

The Bond of Christian Friendship

v. 14 -

Christian Unity: "My Friends" - Addressing the 11 disciples, implies unity - Paul Eph. 4:3 - "The unity of the Spirit" joined unto the Lord in one Spirit.

Christian Friendship necessitates unity - Does it mean uniformity? Amos 3:3 - "Can two walk together except they be agreed?"

Found the world over - men and women in unity of spirit.

Friends of Jesus - Friends of one another.

Do you personally know this Friendship? Precious thing.

Christian Loyalty: "Ye are . . . Do . . . Com."

True Friendship is not soft or shallow. Marks of:

Confidence: Faithfulness in all C.

Psalms 25:14 "Secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him". Bible - says Abraham, Moses - "The friend of God"

Jes. 2:23. "Shall I hide from Abraham the thing which I

do?" Gen. 18:17

"The Lord spoke unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend." Ex. 33:11

In his circle of confidence.

Criticisms: "Faithful are the wounds of a friend" Prov. 27:6

Comfort of feeling safe with a person, having neither to weigh thoughts nor measure words. Strengthens and purifies friendship.

"A perfect friend is one who knows the worst about you, and loves you just the same." There's only one who loves like this, and Jesus is His Name.

Circumstances: "A friend loveth at all times and a brother is born for adversity" Prov. 17:17

Ancient times: man had on fringe of his garments written "Death and Life". Another on his forehead "Summer and winter".

Fair weather.

Christian Sympathy: "Whatsoever" - summed up all the sympathies - Jesus shared everything with the disciples.

Perfect Sympathy? Rom. 12:15 "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep".

Weeping - small side - Rejoicing -

Illustrate - Jesus - Graveside of Lazarus.

Sympathy so genuine even His enemies remarked "Behold how he loved him". John 11:36

Wept with weeping sisters - rejoiced in reunited family at Bethany.

The Benefits of Christian Friendship

v. 15 - Enumerate -

Moral Elevating: Not servants - when Jesus just called them they