

FRIENDS

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Peter heard questions like this:

Who are you? Aren't you one of that guy's friends?

Jesus heard questions like this:

Who are you? Who are your friends?

Tell us who you are... are you the Messiah?

Peter was a friend of Jesus and didn't act like it.

Jesus was and is a friend to all of us and paid the ultimate price of being a friend.

FRIENDS

“A friend is a trusted confidant to whom I am mutually drawn as a companion and an ally, whose love for me is not dependent on my performance, and whose influence draws me closer to God.”

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LOYAL

^{NIV} **Proverbs 17:17** A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

SHARES DEEPLY

Proverbs 25:11 Like apples of gold in settings of silver, so is a word skillfully spoken.

FUN TO BE WITH

^{NET} **Proverbs 17:22** A cheerful heart brings good healing, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

FRIENDS

STIMULATING

^{NET} **Proverbs 27:17** As iron sharpens iron, so a person sharpens his friend.

ENCOURAGING

^{CSB} **Hebrews 3:13** But encourage each other daily, while it is still called today, so that none of you is hardened by sin's deception.

SELF-SACRIFICING

^{NET} **John 15:13** No one has greater love than this – that one lays down his life for his friends.

FRIENDS

LOVING

^{NET} **1 Thessalonians 5:26** Greet all the brothers and sisters with a holy kiss. ^{CSB} **1 Peter 5:14** Greet one another with a kiss of love.

SPIRITUALLY CHALLENGING

^{CSB} **Proverbs 13:20** The one who walks with the wise will become wise, but a companion of fools will suffer harm.

FRIENDS

JESUS CALLS US FRIENDS!

^{CSB} **John 15:15** I do not call you slaves anymore, because a slave doesn't know what his master¹ is doing. I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have heard from My Father.

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JESUS IS LOYAL

John 10:27-29 ²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish -- ever! No one will snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all. No one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

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JESUS IS FUN TO BE WITH

Matthew 17:26 -27 Jesus told him: But, so we won't offend them, go to the sea, cast in a fishhook, and catch the first fish that comes up. When you open its mouth you'll find a coin. Take it and give it to them for Me and you.

JESUS IS STIMULATING

John 15:8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

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JESUS IS ENCOURAGING

John 16:33 I have told you these things so that in Me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world.

JESUS IS SPIRITUALLY CHALLENGING

Matthew 22:37-39 He said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.”

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When Jesus was asked - *Who are you?* - He did not deny His relationship with God or His purpose planned before the foundation of the world.

Luke 22:67-71 ⁶⁷ They said, "If You are the Messiah, tell us." But He said to them, "If I do tell you, you will not believe. ⁶⁸ And if I ask you, you will not answer. ⁶⁹ But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the Power of God." ⁷⁰ They all asked, "Are You, then, the Son of God?" And He said to them, "You say that I am." ⁷¹ "Why do we need any more testimony," they said, "since we've heard it ourselves from His mouth?"

FRIENDS

Because God the Father and God the Son wanted us to have the right kind of relationship with them...

...being friends and not enemies...

God the Son came to earth and took matters into His hands so that He could reconcile us to God.

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^{NET} **Romans 5:10** For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, since we have been reconciled, will we be saved by his life?

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

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^{NET} **Colossians 1:21** And you were at one time strangers and enemies in your minds as expressed through your evil deeds, ²² but now he has reconciled you by his physical body through death to present you holy, without blemish, and blameless before him –

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The State of Humanity:

Man is hostile to God;

God is hostile to man because in His holiness, He hates sin.

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Reconcile - katalasso -to change a person from enmity to friendship.
to reestablish proper friendly interpersonal relations after these have
been disrupted or broke

Basic meaning: to exchange / to change

Catalase - an enzyme that works in our bodies

Catalyst – is a substance that increases the rate of a chemical
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DOCTRINE OF RECONCILIATION

God is the catalyst that makes the change in us without
undergoing any change Himself. All the change happens in us.

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Biblical Doctrine - John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue

- Reconciliation is a work of God accomplished in the person of Jesus Christ, through His blood. Man does not effect this reconciliation by doing something to remove God's hostility toward his sin. Rather, sinners passively receive reconciliation as a gift through the work of Christ.

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- Reconciliation is a finished work accomplished by Christ's sacrifice. It was brought about by Jesus' death on the cross.
- Reconciliation is the removal of God's enmity against sinners.

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Reminder - Jesus was the propitiation for us, receiving the wrath of God Himself so that God's wrath would be satisfied and turned away from us.

Jesus' propitiation provided reconciliation.

Jesus' *propitiation* removed the wrath of God from us,

and Jesus' *reconciliation* removed the hostility of God from us.