

Saturday, April 9, 2016 - "Unfriending" God

I received a "friend" suggestion yesterday on Facebook from a person in this group. After reviewing the suggested "friends" profile and pages, I sent a request and was surprised when I had received an "acceptance" within about 15 minutes. I sent them a message thanking them for accepting my request and because of the professions of Christianity by this person, on her page, I told her about this group and also let her know about my website. I did NOT add her to this group, waiting for her to give the OK or request it, nor did I inundate her with a bunch of information. My note simply said:

"Thank you for accepting my friend request. I maintain a page on Facebook of articles relating to Christianity that I update on a weekly basis and I have a website containing much of the same information. Please let me know if you are interested in learning more about either site. Respectfully, Chuck"

When I returned to my messages last night, she had not only "unfriended" me but she had blocked me also. I contemplated for a minute what could have been the possible reason for her actions. I would have expected a "yes, please tell me more" or a "no thanks" response. Her actions seemed a little dramatic for the situation.

It struck me that humans treat God in much the same manner. Jesus said in John 15:9-15, "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. 11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. 12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. 14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you."

Jesus has come to us extending friendship. For us it is an uplifting, transforming experience. When we read that he was called a friend of sinners, we take heart, for we understand that friendship with Jesus provides eternal life for us.

Too often we desire that friendship as long as it fits the type of life I want to live, full of selfishness, greed and materialism. It doesn't mean I'm a "bad" person, but it does mean I am not walking with God. Once God's plan doesn't fit mine, I have no more need of him, "unfriending" Him as if my life has a purpose or a point without Him. It doesn't.

How do I know? Finish reading John 15...(from the NKJV)

1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for

without Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will[b] ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. 9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. 11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. 12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. 14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. 17 These things I command you, that you love one another. 18 "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. 21 But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. 22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. 23 He who hates Me hates My Father also. 24 If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. 25 But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'They hated Me without a cause. 26 "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. 27 And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

True disciples of Jesus bear fruit for Him because when I have been raised from the waters of baptism I am a NEW MAN in Christ Jesus. Paul said in Col.3:1-4, "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory."

The Christian's thoughts are to dwell on spiritual concerns...

Matt. 6:19-21 - Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon the earth, where moth and rust consume, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth consume, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: for where thy treasure is, there will thy heart be also.

Just as Christ died on the cross for us, we die to sin and the allurements of the flesh. We are dead with Christ to the world and our life is swallowed up in the life of Christ.

Galatians 2:20 - I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I that live, but Christ living in me: and that [life] which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, [the faith] which is in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself up for me.

It is a most unfortunate thing that many, who have the impression that they are friends of Christ, within his family even, actually are not. This is not because the Lord does not want them as such, but due to the fact that they either do not know, or ignore, the conditions for this relationship.

The scriptures make this point very clear. We are either God's friend or we are His enemy. What shall it be?