

Our Friendship With A Divine God

From a logical human viewpoint such a friendship seems impossible if not improbable.

So much so, it was God who originated the idea that human beings could have a friendship with Him.

John 15:14-17 [NIV] *“You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. **You did not choose me, but I chose you** and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. **This is my command: Love each other.**”*

What did Jesus Christ say we should do as our part of this fellowship?

“Love each other.”

Such a relationship will be the environment in which we can strengthen the desired relationship our Creator God wants to have with us.

As with every human relationship, our friendship with God is capable of degrees, from a very formal to intimate.

All of us know people whom we properly call friends but whose friendship is so fragile and tenuous as to stand almost **no** strain without breaking.

There are friends, usually only a few, whose friendship has been tried in the fire of long experience and which it would be next to impossible to destroy.

The friendship I have with my wife Sylvia is such a friendship that has been tried in the fire of long experience. We have now been married over 65 years and have faced many joys and sadnesses together.

Sylvia and I, in many ways, are radically different. It was the difference that first attracted her to me, she had so many attributes that I lacked.

It is not a requisite of friendship that the participants be alike in all things.

It is enough for a strong friendship that the two people are alike where their personalities touch.

Harmony is likeness at points of contact, and friendship is likeness where hearts merge.

For this reason the whole idea of the divine-human friendship is logical enough to be entirely credible.

The infinite God and the finite human being can merge their personalities in a most satisfying friendship.

In such a relationship there is **no** idea of equality. Only of likeness where the heart of the human being meets the heart of God.

Acts 13:21-22 [NIV] *“Then the people asked for a king, and he gave them Saul son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin, who ruled for forty years. After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: **‘I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.’**”*

King David is an example of this friendship with his Creator God.

In many ways King David's lifestyle was different to what we imagine that of God. But David's heart met with God's as King David was a man who wanted to fulfil God's Will in his life.

When King David sinned, and he did in grand style at times, he was also an expert repenter.

Read **Psalm 52** and use it when we find ourselves at odds with our Creator because of our sins.

Genesis 1:26 [NIV] *“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”*

This relationship is **only** possible because human beings were created in the “*image*” of God.

The Hebrew translated “*image*” means a shadow of the real thing.

Genesis 1:27 [NIV] *“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”*

Every human being has the proclivity to have a relationship with their Creator.

The intimate friendship that is the goal that God has will come only after a long period of close relationship.

During this time the “*likeness*” will be formed.

The Hebrew word translated “*likeness*” means “*two for one*” or “*son*” referring to the same “*character*.”

Note this “*likeness*” was **not** part of the original physical creation, for character is on the spiritual level of life **not** physical as are intellect or talents.

The “*image*” of God cannot extend to every part of a human's being, nor could God ever impart them to created human beings.

God is uncreated – humans are created.

God is self-existent – humans are dependent on things outside of themselves for continued existence, air, water and food.

God is infinite – humans are very limited in strength and power.

God is Sovereign as the Creator and Sustainer of all things – humans are subject to the will of God for any existence at all.

God is eternal. He had no beginning and will always exist – every human being had a beginning and will only continue to exist subject to the will and grace of their Creator.

As we see, there are certain attributes that we can never share with God for they are His alone, and by their definition cannot be shared with another being.

There are other attributes that God can impart to His created human beings and these can be the basis of the friendship we can have with Him.

Intellect – the ability to know, reason and understand. This is given to us through the human spirit that we received from God that sets humans apart from other created animals. [**Job 32:8**]

Self-consciousness – all human beings are aware of their existence. This we can share with God in our friendship when we are aware of His existence.

Fruits of the Holy Spirit –

Galatians 5:22-26 [NIV] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.”*

Every human being who invites the Holy Spirit into their lives, to direct their lives, can share these God attributes with our Creator God.

When we express these attributes with other human beings we are sharing them with our Creator as part of our friendship with Him. [Matthew 25:31-40]

God, being perfect, has capacity for perfect friendships – humans, being imperfect, can never quite know perfection in anything.

Least of all, humans can never know perfection in their relationship with the incomprehensible godhead.

Though the truth compels us to admit imperfections on our side of the divine-human friendship, yet there is **no** reason to despair.

2 Peter 3:18 [NIV] *“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever! Amen.”*

In spite of our human frailties, we can grow in grace and move progressively towards a more perfect experiential union with our Creator.

1 John 5:11-12 [NIV] *“And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.”*

When we accept Jesus Christ as our Saviour, God will give us access to the Holy Spirit.

When we have the Holy Spirit dwelling in us and directing our life, we already are experiencing eternal life.

Romans 6:23 [NIV] *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Eternal life in form of Holy Spirit is a gift from God.

What is the main reason for our receiving the Holy Spirit, that is eternal life?

John 17:3 [NIV] *“Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”*

To know the true God through Jesus Christ.

How do we “know” the true God?

The meaning of the Greek word translated “know” tells us.

The Greek word is “*gnōskō*” referring to the very intimate relationship that a man and woman have in the marriage union.

Luke 1:34 [King James] *“Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?”*

The same Greek word is used referring to the sexual union of a husband and wife.

If we seek to build a friendship with our Creator God now, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, He will give us eternity to perfect that friendship.

A friendship built on all the attributes that can be ours, the very “*fruits*” of our relationship with the Holy Spirit now.

True friends trust each other.

We can trust in the promises that God makes in His Word, the Christian Bible, for He has the desire and the power to fulfil them.

Can our Creator God trust us to fulfil our side of this friendship?

John 7:38-39 [NIV] *“Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.”*

Will we allow the attributes of the Holy Spirit in us to flow out to other human beings in acts of love, compassion and faithfulness?

This is how we can fulfil the wishes of our friend, Jesus Christ.

Matthew 5:13-16 [NIV] *“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”*

Our Friend wants us to be a “*light*” to other non-Christians and “*salt*” that will savour the community we live in.

A true friend is someone we can treat as a member of the family.

God will **not** be satisfied until there exists between Him and His created children a relaxed informality that requires no artificial stimulation.

In other words, a loving friendship.

Romans 8:38-39 [NIV] *“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Nothing in all heaven, earth or death can separate us from the loving friendship of our Creator.

We should make sure that nothing shall separate us from our loving friendship with our Creator.