

7.1.18 Titus 2 Chat “Purple Table Talk”

“Hating, Hurting, and Healing: A Journey to Repentant Friendships”

- **SIRACH 6:6-7** prove a friend, don't be hasty to credit anyone..
- **SIRACH 19:4** if you are hasty to credit somebody, you are light minded (simple)

Friendship Pyramid: 5 Stages

1. **Strangers:** lack of awareness of their existence. Lowest and most important stage. First impressions make a major impact.
2. **Acquaintance:** knowing of someone. Occasional interactions. Associate. Not on a personal level yet, just social. They have to acknowledge each other as worthy to pursue a personal friendship with.
3. **Casual friend:** beginning to know someone more personally, meeting more frequently than acquaintances..planned meetings, invites etc. Bonding over common interests. Most people never make it past this stage. Sometimes because one person cannot handle the others negative qualities etc
4. **Close friend:** they understand one another. Very few people make it to this stage. They are both invested in each other personally and emotionally. Share more information with one another, aware of each other's family members and personal things going on in their lives..etc. Spiritual connectivity.
5. **Intimate friend:** a true sisterly bond on a spiritual level. This stage is attained over time through vulnerability. Committed to the development of each other's character.

Problems come when we try to jump through the stages of the friendship developmental process. For example, in the congregation many sisters will come into the body and counsel and divulge their personal information and issues with sisters that are very new, inexperienced and not proven, rather than trustworthy sisters that they have built a closeness with.

Be sure that you are basing your friendships on God's commandments. Your commitment to walking as a repenting Israelite woman needs to be reflected by the kinds of people you call friends.

- **PROV. 27:14** iron sharpens iron.. (be around sisters that are like minded according to God's laws to build one another up)
- **PROV. 17:17** a friend loves at all times, a brother is there for adversity
- **PROV. 18:24** show yourself friendly if you want friends

“You cannot be true friends with someone that is not keeping the commandments because your closeness with the Most High will diminish.” - Mother Shamarah

- **JOHN 15:14-17** you are my friends if you do what I command you..bear fruit..love one another.. (The foundation of our friendships MUST be the keeping the commandments)

You may need to make friends with the mammon of this world for certain things (i.e. work, interviews etc) and you need to be able to carry yourself appropriately.

“Have 1 counselor of 1000. Stop telling everybody your business!” - Mother Shamarah

A close friendship takes time, work, and energy. Friendship is voluntary, mutual, personal, affectionate, and equal.

How to Develop and Maintain Friendships:

1. Role limited interaction: you are interacting based on your social roles. Superficial beginning (i.e. Shalom sis, how are you..I like your dress etc)
2. Friendly relations: communication that moves beyond initial roles, seeing if your common interest bring you closer
3. Moving towards friendship: being meeting outside of the setting where the relationship started (i.e. you met at the school now you are hanging out outside of that setting)
4. Friendship: commit to spending more time together, call each other friends, may start sharing private communication
5. Stabilized friendship: the friendship is solid, they assume there is going to be continual friendship. They begin getting comfortable and sharing a lot with each other.
6. Waning friendship: may no abruptly end but the communication and fellowship together starts to decline. May be too difficult to sustain. (Sisters that may leave the truth or be in the midst of sin and are not to be communicated with..we can't hold on to them, they have to get themselves right.) Sometimes waning friendships have to die.

Be mindful and prove sisters, especially those that are new. Wait to see how they prove themselves in the body for awhile before getting to emotionally invested.

- **1 COR. 12:25-26** no schisms in the body, have the same care one for another. One member suffers or is honored, the other members share that..

“Just do your part and play your role, don't worry about what other sisters are doing.” - Mother Shamarah

“You will spiritually outgrow people, and sometimes we need to get them to level up or they need to go..” - Mother Shamarah

- **EPH. 4:32** kind, tenderhearted, forgiving..
- **COL. 3:12** bowels of mercy, kindness, humbleness, meekness, longsuffering, forbearing and forgiving one another as Christ does us
- **ROM 12:10** be kindly affectioned with brotherly love, preferring one another
- **1 PET. 3:8** be of one mind, having compassion, love, being pitiful and courteous

Why Do Friendships End?

- we don't follow the guidelines God set up for us.
 - we overshare personal information, whether at the wrong stage of friendship or just at an overwhelming rate (i.e. sisters may come to you for counsel complaining, being dramatic and oversharing their problems, and not taking your counsel. These are spiritual vampires you have to withdraw from.)
 - A constant cloud of negativity (the sister that is always complaining)
 - People change overtime and sometimes they grow apart
 - Increasing distance.
 - Failure to meet expectations of the friendship..not communicating them..
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- **SIRACH 22:20-22** he that upbraideth his friend, breaks friendship. If you open your mouth against your friend, there may be a reconciliation, except for upbraiding, pride, disclosing of secrets or a treacherous wound..for these things every friend will depart.

*UPBRAID: to find fault with or to scold

There are times where correction is needed, but when it is unnecessary it turns to upbraiding

"You can have a righteous friendship for a lifetime, if you establish it correctly." - Mother Shamarah

"If they are just there to hear your business and not give you the scriptures, they are not your friend." - Ahshiyah H.O. Capt. Raimyah

EPH 5:16 redeem the time because the days are evil

You make time for what is important to you.

"During these evil times, you need true sisterhood!" - Mother Shamarah

1 COR. 5:11 don't keep company with a fornicator, covetous, a railer, extortioner, drunkard etc

2 COR. 6:4-18 don't be unequally yoked with unbelievers..

When a sister is judged for sin in the congregation, sisters that still want to be friends and emotionally support them etc.. have put their faith in an unrighteous friend rather than the Most High. Even the simple order of deleting them off of social media..

When it comes to friends you have in the world, when you come into the truth you can't hold on to those friendship because you are going to hold on to old sins etc. Tell them about the truth and be a righteous example, but don't keep having that same closeness. They do not understand your new lifestyle so you should not be discussing your marital issues, needing a

babysitter etc..your new sisters in Christ should be your support system. Your counselors should not be your unbelieving mother or friend with 3 baby daddies etc you need to counsel with the aged wise women in the congregation.

- **PHILIP. 2:12** ..not in my presence only..
- **PHILIP. 1:20** if you use wisdom there will be a reward

You can still keep close friends from a distance. Out of state friendships can still develop and be maintained, it just takes the effort to communicate via phone calls, video chat etc.

When it comes to the expectations you have for your friendships, you need to communicate those things and be clear. We have different friends for different reasons at various levels. You may just be wanting a workout buddy, someone to sew with etc

*HATE: a feeling often associated with anger, an amazing amount of dislike so much that you would not care if something happened to them, you get the urge that if you could you would physically harm or even murder them

HATING

Bible Dictionary Definition of Hate: dislike greatly, abhor, detest, to love less..

- **LEV. 19:17** don't hate your brethren..correct them in their sin (Correction is not hate!)
- **ISAIAH 65:5** ..I am holier than thou..

Sisters have hatred for one another for many reasons; jealousy, idle, vainglorious, self-righteous, envy husbands rank, feel like they can't be corrected etc

Sisters that may have important positions in the congregation and are under more scrutiny, be mindful that you are going above and beyond in your efforts to be a good example and never come off as if you are too good to or not required to put in work.

- **GAL. 6:4** let every man prove his own work and then rejoice in himself and not in another

There is no reason to be jealous of someone else's work, just work on improving yourself.

“Jealousy is a form of hatred, built upon a person's own insecurity.”

You can tell a hater if they are gossiping, acting holier than thou, being envious and jealous, backbiting, not correcting their sisters, talebearing, crave drama, they hold grudges, always comparing themselves to other sisters and feeling like it's a competition..

- **1 TIM. 5:13** ..idle, wandering house to house, tattlers and busybodies speaking things which they ought not

You should not be idle! There is too much work to be done in this body as IUIC is growing. Go to a leadership wife if you feel like you need to be given something to do. If you are about the Lord's business, you will seek friends that are as well.

- **PROV. 26:20** where there is no talebearer, the strife ceases
- **SIRACH 28:9, 12-13, 15** a sinful man disquits friends and makes debate among them that be at peace. If you blow the spark it will burn, if you spit on it it will quench, both come from your mouth. Curse the whisperer and the double tongued, they have destroyed many that be at peace. A backbiting tongue has cast out virtuous women and deprived them of their labors.

Don't bear grudges. We should not be hating on sisters for no reason, love your neighbor as yourself.

- **SIRACH 28:1- 8** don't try to revenge..forgive thy neighbor so your sins are forgiven..remember the commandments, bear no malice, wink at ignorance, abstain from strife
- **MATT. 5:22** if you are angry with your brother without cause will be destroyed
- **1 JOHN 4:20** if you say you love God but you hate your brother, you are a liar. How can you love God who you have not seen, when you can't even love your brother next to you?

A real friend is not competitive, they are happy for you and will not bring drama into your life.

- **SIRACH 6:8-17** some pple are friends for their own occasion and will leave when you go through something. Separate from your enemies and take heed of your friends. (Continue proving your friends overtime.) A faithful friend is a strong defense, a treasure..his excellency is invaluable. Direct your friendship aright.

HURTING

If a friendship is not worth saving to you and is damaged beyond repair, you need to let the anger go. If you've destroyed a friendship, don't be upset when they start building with someone else. We are still sisters in Christ even if we are not super close friends anymore. No grudges. Learn from your mistakes and don't make them again in your future relationships. If someone hurts you, make sure you are reading the situation correctly. Evil surmising comes in easily so you need to communicate and work things out. Get counsel!

- **SIRACH 11:8** blame not before you examine the truth, understand first and then rebuke
- **SIRACH 9:10** forsake not an old friend (is this friendship worth saving or not?)

- **SIRACH 20:1-3** it's better to reprove than be angry secretly..some reproof is not comely (be mindful not to say things when you are angry whether in friendship or in your marriage, because you may not mean it at that moment...

HEALING

Some people think that their apology means you will be able to reconcile and pick up where you left off. Sometimes this is not the case and there needs to be a healing from the situation. Friendships may end because of something that was said, a slow drift between people, lack of communication, a treacherous wound etc..

"Sometimes you need to let a person go because you can't allow them to do the same thing over and over. You can't spiritually grow if you are holding on to poisonous people." - Mother Shamarah

- **MATT. 5:44** pray for them that despitefully use you, love your neighbor, forgive..
- **2 TIM. 3:16-17** all scripture is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction in righteousness..
- **SIRACH 32:17** a sinful man finds an excuse (don't make excuses for ungodly behavior)

Friendships grow apart, end, have ups and downs etc. Some people aren't loyal to you but what they need from you, and when their needs change so does their loyalty. Some of the most poisonous people come in the form of family and friends, so remember to prove them.

When a friendship breaks apart in deep anger it can be very difficult to mend, but it is possible if you believe it is worth it. You have to work towards it and really put in the effort.

- **PHILIP. 4:8** honest, pure, just, virtuous, lovely, good report etc..think on these things and DO them
- **HEB.12:2** we have to endure just as Christ did..the author and finisher of our faith

How to Mend Broken Friendships

- Be open to apologizing and forgiving one another
- Offer a sincere apology and accept theirs. Express remorse and actually say "I'm sorry". Take responsibility and admit what you did. Make amends. Promise that it won't happen again.
- Be honest and address the real issues between you, whether it is envy, a lack of support on one side etc
- Set expectations for the friendship
- Make plans to nurture the friendship and get back to enjoying each other's company

"Be the friend that you want." - Mother Shamarah