



"The humble man, because he sees himself as nothing, can see other things as they are."  
—Iris Murdoch

08-Mar-19

## *Friends of the Friendless (Part Two)*

As we saw in Part One, friendship is a constant theme throughout God's Word. We could even say that His plan of salvation is to restore friendship between Himself and humanity, as well as between fellow humans. [God](#) has bent His efforts toward producing right relationships between people. He sets the pattern of friendship in these loving actions. Notice [II Corinthians 8:9](#): "For you know the condescending [goodness](#) of our Lord Jesus Christ—how for your sakes He became poor, though He was rich, in order that you through His poverty might grow rich" (Richard Francis Weymouth, *The New Testament in Modern Speech*).

We generally think of the word "condescending" in a negative sense, but *Merriam Webster's Dictionary* notes that it was once more positive: "The verb *condescend* used to be free of any hint of the offensive superiority it usually suggests today. It could mean literally 'to go or come down' or, figuratively, 'to willingly lower oneself to another's level,' . . . senses that are still occasionally encountered in writings on the Bible."

Jesus condescended, and [Hebrews 2:11](#) explains what resulted: "Both the One who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are of the same family" (*Holy Bible, New International Version*®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by [Biblica, Inc.®](#) Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.). We are now all members of that divine Family, and in His humility, Jesus is not ashamed to call us His brothers and sisters.

CGG Weekly: Friends of the Friendless (Part Two) (08-Mar-19)

Christianity is all about family relationships with God and with each other, and the Bible provides many admonishments and encouragements to spur us to live this way. In [Romans 12:16](#) (NIV), the apostle Paul writes, "Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited."

In [Acts 20:35](#), Paul notes that Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive," exhorting us in the same breath that we are obliged to help the weak. Solomon writes in [Proverbs 14:31](#) that by being generous and [merciful](#) we honor our Creator. In [Luke 14:13](#), Jesus teaches that, when we host a party, visit a local attraction, or go out to a nice restaurant, we should invite someone who may not be able to afford such a nice experience or with whom we would not normally associate. We all have many acquaintances, but until we spend time with them, that is all that they are. If they are to become friends, we must devote some time to them.

When we do as God instructs and share our time and ourselves with them, when the time is right, God will bless our sacrifice. In the meantime, we may have actually gained a new friend—a real friend. How invaluable is that—for both parties?

[Hebrews 13:2](#) reads:

Do not neglect to extend hospitality to strangers [especially among the family of believers—being friendly, cordial, and gracious, sharing the comforts of your home and doing your part generously], for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it. (*The Amplified Bible*, Copyright © 2015 by The Lockman Foundation, La Habra, CA 90631. All rights reserved.)

God wants to see our reactions and may even be testing us to see how we respond to the needs of those of us who are in a weaker position. Paul writes to the Philippians:

. . . fulfill my [joy](#) by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. ([Philippians 2:2-4](#))

In [John 15:13](#), Jesus tells us, "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends." The apostle John adds a second scriptural witness in [I John 3:16](#), "By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down

our lives for the brethren." As we have learned, this principle is the meaning of the grain or [meal offering](#). We honor and glorify our heavenly Father as we lay our lives down in sacrifice and active service for one another.

Finally, the apostle James contends in [James 1:27](#) that true worship of God is more than just not sinning but also proactively visiting the widows and the fatherless. These categories represent all who are weak and lack support. We need to put ourselves in their shoes, as it were, and walk a mile in their moccasins. If we will review our shortcomings and experiences, it becomes easier to empathize with the weak among us and to reach out to offer them [hope](#) and a helping hand.

It should be our goal to relate to all our brothers and sisters in the [faith](#), regardless of their status in life. Recalling Lucy Ricardo's words in the "Friends of the Friendless" episode, each of us is the flotsam of the sea, a pitiful outcast, shunned by our fellow man. Never forget who we were—and perhaps who we still are—and consider the example of our Savior as we do to others as we would have others do to us ([Luke 6:31](#)).

As we seek to be like Him, bear in mind that, regardless of how low we may stoop, none of us has bowed so low as our Savior when He gave up His glory and became like His human creations. His selfless actions can always serve to motivate us.

It will not be easy, but if we seek to use whatever gifts that God has given to help heal the loneliness and disappointments of others, it will go a long way in helping us to fulfill our Christian duty. We will truly be "friends of the friendless."

- John Reiss

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## *World News Highlights*

### [As the Web Turns 30, Is It an 'Out-Of-Control Monster'?](#)

Yahoo/AFP 03-Mar-19

### ['If the Heartbeat Is Detected, the Baby Is Protected': Anti-Abortion Bill Gains Momentum in Texas](#)

The Dallas News 02-Mar-19

### [Uk Women Promote 'Birthstrike' Baby Ban to Prevent 'Eco-Armageddon'](#)

Breitbart 07-Mar-19

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[Northwestern Neuroscientist Researching Brain Chips to Make People Superintelligent](#)

CBS Chicago 04-Mar-19

[Alabama Man Sues Abortion Clinic After Girlfriend Terminates Fetus](#)

Yahoo Lifestyle 07-Mar-19

[Three Times the Illegal Immigration of 2017 Levels at Current Rate](#)

Breitbart 06-Mar-19

[Russian River Floods Northern California Communities of Guerneville, Monte Rio](#)

The Lompoc Record 01-Mar-19

[At Least 23 Dead as Tornadoes, Severe Storms Ravage South](#)

Associated Press 04-Mar-19

[Commentary: Actually, China's Social Credit System Isn't the First](#)

Channel NewsAsia 02-Mar-19

[New Study Claims Dr. Seuss and His Books Are Racist](#)

The College Fix 27-Feb-19

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*New Transcripts*

[1204: The Book of Daniel \(Part Eight\)](#)

Given by Martin G. Collins on 29-Mar-14

[1364c: Age of Distraction](#)

Given by John W. Ritenbaugh on 18-Feb-17

[1476c: Reinstating Daily Sacrifices in Jerusalem](#)

Given by Kim Myers on 02-Mar-19

[982c: Fiddling While America Burns](#)

Given by Richard T. Ritenbaugh on 20-Mar-10

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*Prayer Requests*

New prayer request updates have been posted for the following people:

[Rick Bolin](#)

[Delicious DeBlair](#)

[C. A. Foland](#)

[C. A. Foland](#)

[C. A. Foland](#)

[Glenn Ford](#)

[Glenn Ford](#)

[Gary Garrett](#)

[Gary Garrett](#)

[Sam Harris](#)

[Arthur and Naomi King](#)

[Sarah Pursley](#)

[Tom Taylor](#)

[Mary Tisher](#)

[Paulette Williams](#)

[Paulette Williams](#)

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## *From the Archives: Featured Sermon*

### [Unity Through Humility](#)

by Richard T. Ritenbaugh

Richard Ritenbaugh, citing Rush Limbaugh's claim that America was built on competition, finds much truth in that observation, claiming that America seems to be awash in competition, from sibling rivalry to classmate rivalry to athletic rivalry to academic rivalry to economic rivalry. Competition in the church, however, can lead to disaster, destroying harmony and unity. Competition is a form of conflict or war. God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Pride elevates self and disdains others. Satan let his pride get the best of himself, elevating himself against everything, including God. Competition becomes deplorable when one is motivated to destroy the competitor. Competition and pride destroy unity; humility and cooperation enhance unity. We look after the interests of others as well as ourselves. We need to root out selfish ambition and conceit. We must develop an ample supply of longsuffering, remembering that to love God, we must also love our brother. There is a right and wrong way to approach a

brother who does not share a similar belief. God's calling to us was very gentle. Disagreements, especially among brethren, can be smoothed over in cooperation and peace rather than wrangling or disputing.

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## *From the Archives: Featured Article*

### [Living by Faith and Humility](#)

by John W. Ritenbaugh

People resist God because of their pride, but pride can be neutralized by humility, a character trait that allows a person to submit to God and have a relationship with Him. John Ritenbaugh provides many examples to reveal that God wants us to evaluate ourselves and recognize our dependence on Him, which draws God's attention and favor.

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## *Featured Audio Schedule*

### **Friday Night Bible Study**

The next Bible Study will be **The Messenger of Christ**, given by **John W. Ritenbaugh** on **Friday 08-Mar-19**. The Bible Study will be continuously available from **6:00 pm Friday** until **12:00 pm Saturday (EST)**.

### **Daily Audio Programs**

Hear previous sermons, sermonettes, and Feast of Tabernacles messages, **Sunday through Friday**. [Available from the homepage.](#)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>
Sunday 10-Mar-19	A Bondmaid and a Freewoman
Monday 11-Mar-19	The Glory of God (Part 3): From Glory to Glory
Tuesday 12-Mar-19	Joseph's Extraordinary Example
Wednesday 13-Mar-19	Is God's Mercy Conditional?
Thursday 14-Mar-19	Unity and Godly Diversity in One Body
Friday 15-Mar-19	Taste and See

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