

## The Ascending Scale of Friendliness

1 Corinthians 3:19-24

### Introduction:

- A. Some questions about friendship:
  1. Is it difficult for you to be friendly?
  2. What does friendliness really involve?
  3. How important is it that I be friendly?
  4. With whom should I consider friendship?
- B. Today's study deals with three areas of friendship.

### Live with friendliness toward other churches (19,20a)

- A. Gifts are given to the Corinthian church by
  1. The churches of Asia
  2. Aquila and Priscilla gave heartfelt greetings since they used to live in Corinth (Acts 18:2,3; 2 Tim 4:19).
  3. The brethren (traveling companions of Paul).
- B. Friendliness between churches is important
  1. Our association of churches (11 churches) which:
    - a. Pool financial resources (e.g. support the church plant called Damascus Church \$500 per month)
    - b. Pool talents resources (e.g. training VBS workers, treasurers, pastors)
    - c. Pool people resources (e.g. Disaster Relief; work teams to help a certain church).
  2. Our Caro area churches (25 + churches)
    - a. Ministerial association
      - 1) Once per month meetings
      - 2) Encourage community Service (e.g. Good Friday)
      - 3) Encourage pooling of resources to meet emergency needs through the Community Good Samaritan Fund.
    - b. Family Partnership is a community wide effort to minister to homeless families which no doubt will add to the church as faith in action always creates opportunities for sharing the gospel.

### Live in friendliness toward fellow Churches (20b)

- A. Paul commands those within the Corinthian church to greet one another with a heartfelt kiss.

1. The command – g\_\_\_\_\_ one another
  2. The method – a k\_\_\_\_\_ the customary cultural greeting (if the culture practiced handshakes or bowing, then that method would have been stated)
  3. The emphasis – in a h\_\_\_\_\_ manner (the Greek text puts the word in a position of emphasis)
- B. We are to greet one another in a m\_\_\_\_\_ way as opposed to getting through a formality.
1. H\_\_\_\_\_ handshakes
  2. H\_\_\_\_\_ hugs
  3. H\_\_\_\_\_ hellos

**Live o\_\_\_\_\_ your friendship with Ch\_\_\_\_\_ (21-24)**

- A. Paul assumes that his readers all have a friendship with Christ which is defined as:
1. L\_\_\_\_\_ the Lord
    - a. This is a sister word to the word k\_\_\_\_\_ and refers to an affection. (in verse 24 the word love is a love of a\_\_\_\_\_).
    - b. Those who do not have an ongoing affection for Christ are to be a\_\_\_\_\_ (means to be cut off).
  2. Loving the Lord's c\_\_\_\_\_
    - a. Some versions read Maranatha (= the Lord come).
    - b. When the Lord comes, all the effects of sin in us will end. Look f\_\_\_\_\_ to that day.
- B. Grace is the b\_\_\_\_\_ of our friendship with Christ.
1. Verse 23 is not a w\_\_\_\_\_ (the verb “be” is not in the Greek text as is indicated by the KJV which put the word, “be”, in italics)
  2. Verse 23 is not a mere f\_\_\_\_\_ (the word “is” would make it so)
  3. Verse 23 is an e\_\_\_\_\_ (the Greeks did not have punctuation. So an exclamation point was made by taking all the verbs out).
- C. What motivates you to obey Jesus's commands? (see Jn 15:14)
1. The p\_\_\_\_\_ of other Christians? (positive peer pressure).
  2. The e\_\_\_\_\_ of others present?
  3. What if you are alone, or are among strangers? Only your f\_\_\_\_\_ with Christ will motivate you.