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FOUNDATION CORNERSTONE

FCS1-3-12: Friends in the World

Fellowship: (Greek 2842 – *Acts 2:42*) koinonia koy-nohn-ee'-ah from 2844; partnership, i.e. (literally) participation, or (pecuniary) benefaction:--(to) communicate(-ation), communion, (contri-) distribution, **fellowship**.

Friend: (Greek 5384 – *Matthew 11:19*) philos fee'-los properly, dear, i.e. a friend; actively, **fond**, i.e. **friendly** (still as a noun, an **associate**, **neighbor**, etc.):--**friend**.

A Christian must understand the difference of fellowship and friendship. In fellowship, a person is a co-participant of the things that they have in common together. For example: A person that likes to bowl, may meet at a bowling alley and share a few games with others that like bowling too. Bowling may be a way to reach out and meet new friends and hopefully share the Gospel with them. Yet, for testimony sake in all things, the Christians need to be very careful of what they co-participate in.

Another example may be a place where a Christian works where there are other people working with him. Let's say that a co-worker may be into worshiping the Devil: In this example the Christian will try to witness this person to draw him away from the Devil unto the glorious light of God. The Christian is trying to befriend this person without co-participating with him in the things of the world. Though trying to be friendly to see him saved, the Christian is not partaking with the person of the evil. This is the key difference between fellowship and friendship.

Matthew 5:13-16 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. 14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Everywhere a Christian goes, they should be an example of God's goodness and grace. The light that shines from their life may touch many people, whether the Christian knows of it or not. They are in effect, living the parable of the 'seed sower'.

Mark 4:3-9 Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow: 4 And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up. 5 And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth: 6 But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away. 7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit. 8 And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred. 9 And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

In evangelism, being approachable is the key. A lost person needs to know that the Christian is available and can be counted on. Yet at the same time, the lost person should know that the Christian is not going to participate of things in the world with them.

Matthew 18:11 For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.

Mark 2:16-17 And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners?



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17 When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Christians should be friendly towards the lost as a part of evangelism. But, to co-participate with the ungodly things that they do in the world, the Christian will not partake.



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Question 1

It is a good testimony for a Christian to partake of the evil his friend is doing in hopes of winning him to Christ.

True

False

True/False

Question 2

As described in Matthew 5:13-16, ye are the light of the world.

True

False

True/False

Question 3

As described in the parable of the sower, a seed may:

Fall among thorns.

Fall by the way side.

Fall over a waterfall.

Fall on good ground.

Multiple choice (Multiple answers)

Question 4

As described in Matthew 18:11, for the Son of man is come to _____ that which was _____.

Fill in blanks

Question 5

As described in Mark 2:16-17, Jesus came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.

True

False

True/False



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Not yet