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Brothers And Sisters

Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

EPHESIANS 5:1-2

The world does not understand the Christian concept of brotherhood and sisterhood. The world says to find friends among like-minded, like-income people who vote like you and have about the same golf handicap. These are safe people; they won't ask for prayer, counseling or financial assistance.

These worldly friendships work until you face a pressing problem, a tragic loss or a serious illness, and suddenly you realize that those worldly friends are just acquaintances who do not care much about you.

Christian friendship is different. You find a few brothers and sisters and decide at the outset that you are going to expend yourself for them. You get into each other's lives. You encourage, counsel, challenge and rebuke each other. You make sacrifices for each other. I made a covenant relationship with a Christian brother many years ago. Even though he lives in Colorado we do what it takes to stay close. We have flown thousands of miles to spend time together during crises time's and to celebrate special events. That's a level of friendship some people will never experience or even understand. It's one of the joys of being a part of Gods family.

APPLICATION: *Have you developed some deep Christian friendships? What steps could you take to initiate or deepen your most important relationships? Do you let others into your private domain? If not, what is it that you do not want them to know? Long term relationships are what the western Christian church is missing. What will you do to improve this in your life? Remember relationships require two way investments.*