



How to Prepare to Help a Friend

Part 2

6/11/17

Romans 7:14 ...we know that the Law is spiritual; but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin.

¹⁵ For that which I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I *would* like to *do*, but I am doing the very thing I hate.

¹⁶ But if I do the very thing I do not wish *to do*, I agree with the Law, *confessing* that it is good.

¹⁷ So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which indwells me.

¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the wishing is present in me, but the doing of the good *is* not.

¹⁹ For the good that I wish, I do not do; but I practice the very evil that I do not wish.

²⁰ But if I am doing the very thing I do not wish, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.

²¹ I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wishes to do good.

²² For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man,

²³ but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind, and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.

²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?

²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.

Ephesians 2:1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,

² in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

³ Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us

Ephesians 4:15 ... speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him, who is the head, *even* Christ,

¹⁶ from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

¹⁷ This I say therefore, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind,

¹⁸ being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;

¹⁹ and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality, for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

²⁰ But you did not learn Christ in this way,

²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus,

²² that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit,

²³ and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

²⁴ and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of* God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

1. Trust the truths and wisdom of the Bible. **Ephesians 4:15**
 - a. Locate passages that speak to your friend's need that can be shared along the way as God leads. Call your pastors and or other leaders for help.
 - b. Develop a topical file system of passages that can be used to help future friends.

2. Trust and apply the following teachings of Scripture regarding your friend's condition if he/she is not trusting Jesus
 - a. your friend is a masterpiece of The Loving Creator, fashioned by Him in His own image according to His divine plan and is set apart from the rest of creation **Genesis 1:26f**

 - b. though your friend bears the image of God and with that image has a noble nature, your friend also has a fallen, rebellious nature and, without God's intervention, is helplessly blinded by and under the influence of sin
Ephesians 2:1f

 - c. even though fallen and separated from God by sin your friend is loved by God and by those who love God. Dignity, honor and love are due to all who bear His image no matter how marred His image by sin **John 3:16**

 - d. though human relationships matter a lot the center of God's plan for your friend is a life of worship and, at root, every problem he/she has at its core is a worship issue **Romans 1:18f**

 - e. only through a trusting, loving worshipful relationship with God can your friend find God's plan for their life and experience personal and relational healing and, with it, fullness of love and life.
Romans 8

 - f. God's plan to bring salvation and a life of worship and healing in your friend's life includes using individuals and communities of love, grace and mercy who are themselves experiencing God's salvation and healing. By His grace this is your calling. **Ephesians 4:11f**

3. Focus your life and ministry on Jesus. This will include:
 - a. pointing your friend to Jesus **Hebrews 1:1f**

 - b. ministering with a Christ-like servant's heart, esteeming your friend and their welfare above your own **Philippians 2:3f**

 - c. periodically studying the life of Jesus as The One True Healer **Luke**

 - d. practicing a balanced, Christ-like ministry of truth and grace in sharing with your friend **John 1:4**

 - e. choosing a Christ-like devotion to your friend **John 13:1f**

4. Trust
 - a. God's word as containing the solution for your friend's greatest problems **II Peter 1:1f**

 - b. God's power to change your friend's heart and life **Ephesians 2:1f**

- c. God's guidance to guide you as his instrument of healing **Romans 8:1f**
- d. God's church as a part of God's healing plan **Ephesians 4:11f**
- e. God's gospel of the cross as the foundation of life and healing
 I Corinthians 1 and 2

5. Pray for your friend and seek God's guidance each day **Ephesians 6:10f**

6. Be becoming the friend your friend will listen to by practicing those "means of grace" God will use to produce growth in the following character qualities and practices. (To view God's "means of grace" see our *How to Grow* guide at *CrossPointeFellowship.church* and click *Jesus* on the heading bar. For teaching, listen to the *Messages* under *Resources* each Sunday in Jan 2017 titled, *How to Prepare for 2017*

- love **I Corinthians 13:1f**
- compassion **II Corinthians 11:28f**
- courage **II Timothy 1:7**
- genuineness **Romans 7:18f**
- honor **John 13:1f**
- humility **Philippians 2:3f**
- patience **I Thessalonians 5:14**
- peacefulness **Colossians 3:15**
- respect **I Peter 2:17**
- tenderheartedness **Ephesians 4:32**
- trustworthiness **Proverbs 20:19**
- truthfulness **Ephesians 4:15**
- weakness-bearing **Romans 15:1f**
- wisdom **Proverbs 1-9**

7. Joyfully accept the trials of life as instruments of God's equipping for ministry
 II Corinthians 1:3f

8. Hold your spouse and family as a higher priority than your ministry to your friend and continually consider your spouse' council concerning this priority
 I Peter 3:7

9. Maintain a lifestyle of moral alertness and discretion in heart and practice
 I Peter 1:13f

10. Maintain confidentiality in your ministry to your friend **I Peter 4:8**