

Spiritual Friendship

Acts 21:1-16

This section is about f....., an essential element of church life – see Acts 2:42. Paul had such strong bonds to the Ephesian Christians he had to t..... himself away! v.1.

The gospel c..... and c..... us into spiritual friendships.

1.) They are needed! Paul is heading for Jerusalem, where he knows he will s..... And he is s..... by friends.

Principle: to need such friendships is not a sign of spiritual i..... but m.....! This is how we were m.....! See Gen 2:18. Some people don't w..... friends, but that is not l..... God. Consider the example of J.....

2.) They are discovered. Paul was not f..... with the Christians in Tyre. Yet they feel they have right to c..... him! And they depart as though o..... f.....!

Principle: if you s..... Jesus with someone, you discover there is an a..... b..... Eph 4:3, it says 'm.....' not 'a.....'! See also 1 John 3:14.

Friendships happen where people have a 'c..... p.....' For Christians, that is Jesus. If you lack such friendships, may be your f..... with God isn't p.....!

3.) They are made (not just discovered) The must be m.....

Principle: spiritual friendships take a lot of w.....!

Fellowship comes from the word 'to s.....' We must:

- a.) share f.....
- b.) share p.....
- c.) share f..... (see Hebrews 3:13)
- d.) share d..... (they discuss the right
i..... of what the Spirit told them all.)
- e.) Share t..... (see Luke's example!)

d.) They are forever.

We often see Christians saying g..... in Acts, yet always with peace.

Principle: S..... are never p..... for Christians, because of the c.....