

# ESTRANGED BELIEVERS?

## Saying Good bye

- There is a time and season for EVERYTHING under the sun. *Eccl. 3:1 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:* When seasons go away, new seasons come. This is how our life works. There will be changes in our lives as seasons change, and we must embrace these changes if we are going to grow.
- Seasons cause growth, but before growth comes, death must occur. This is also true in our personal lives and spiritual walk. If we desire to experience spiritual growth we must experience the pain and discomfort of change. John 12:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.
- There will be those that come back into your life, but we must have the fortitude to walk away from people when we need to. Whenever we cannot leave certain people alone, it's a self esteem issue. When a person suffers abandonment in their childhood, they struggle with abandoning others. When a person harbors secret feelings, they struggle with secret sins. When a person lacks self worth, they want to get along with and feel they need everyone they have ever known. These are issues that must be addressed before a person can take control of their lives and choose their friends wisely.

## Real Friends

friend |frendl

noun

1 a person whom one knows and with whom one has a bond of mutual affection

- a person who is not an enemy or who is on the same side
- The bible is very clear about 2 being in agreement to walk together. *Amos 3:3 Can two walk together, except they be agreed?* This does not mean we agree on everything but it does mean that we must be in agreement on what the bible is saying. We witness to and pray for sinners, but we do not embrace sinners as "friends" because we are not in agreement with their lifestyle. 2Cor. 6:14 Do not keep company with those who have not faith: for what is there in



common between righteousness and evil, or between light and dark?

- Most Christians like to say that Jesus "hung out" with sinners. This is not at all true. Sinners sought out Jesus for answers. When they would find him, he would minister to them and give them the truth. He was not befriending them or hanging out with them, but rather, they were searching for him (truth) and he would make himself available for them (minister).
- Rick Warren, senior pastor of Saddleback Valley Community Church in Orange County, CA, and author of *The Purpose Driven Church*, says, "From the gospels, it is obvious that Jesus enjoyed being with seekers far more than being with religious leaders. He went to their parties and was called the 'friend of sinners.'" Warren then asks, "How many people would call you that?" (p. 208). But what is this text actually saying? Notice that Jesus is quoting the words of the Pharisees who falsely accused Him of living a worldly lifestyle, just as they had falsely accused John, saying he was demon possessed (Lk. 7:33). Was John demon possessed? No. Was Jesus a winebibber and a gluttonous hedonist? Absolutely not. To use this text to justify worldliness is an abomination. Certainly Jesus was not a winebibber, and while He did love the unsaved, He never imitated, lived, nor acted like them in any way. -Matt. Costella "Would Jesus Do That?"

When we hold on to people that do not believe what we believe, we are making it hard for our own witness. Even professed Christians have to be expelled from our lives at times for reasons taught to us in the word.

**•When they call themselves a Christian but continue to walk in sin.** [1 Cor. 5:1-13](#), [1Cor. 5:11](#)

*But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.*

**•If we catch them in a fault or sin, and they refuse to hear us.** [Matt. 18:15-17](#)

**•If their actions and deeds are "unfruitful" works of darkness** Ephesians 5:11

**•If a man doesn't work, you should break fellowship with him.** [2Thesslonians 3:11](#) *Indeed, we hear that some among you are disorderly [that they are passing their lives in idleness, neglectful of duty], being busy with other people's affairs instead of their own and doing no work. 2Th. 3:14 But if anyone [in the church] refuses to obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he may be ashamed.*

**•If a person is a false teacher.** [1 Timothy 1:20](#) *1Tim. 1:20 Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.*

**•If a person is not consenting to the truth but rather having itching ears.** [1 Timothy 6:1-5](#) *1Tim. 6:5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.*

**•If a person is in fellowship with those that promote darkness.**

**Causing division.**

(expose) [Titus 3:10](#), [Rom. 16:17](#) *Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.*

**Crawfishing**

[Matt. 12:47-50](#) *And one said to him, See, your mother and your brothers are outside,*

*desiring to have talk with you. But he in answer said to him who gave the news, Who is my mother and who are my brothers? And he put out his hand to his disciples and said, See, my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the pleasure of my Father in heaven, he is my brother, and sister, and mother.*

- A bucket of crawfish is always interesting to watch. They all claw and pull each other down every time one tries to get out. If they would work together, they could escape, but because they all keep pulling each other back into the bucket, they are all gonna get boiled! Yum!
- Family can be this way at times. Rather than focusing on the fact that we can all help each other, they would rather claw at you and pull you back into the bucket. They get jealous of your new identity in Christ or the success you have in ministry and their desire to is to make what you do or who you are less than it is. You must remove yourselves from these opinions or you will began to believe it yourself!
- Breaking fellowship with family is different all together. Sure, family is always around and you can't really divorce yourself from them, but you must take Jesus' attitude and keep those that believe what you believe close to you. Your natural family is NATURAL. So, keep the conversations and time you spend together on a natural level if you know they are contentious. Share spiritual things with those that are on the same side as you and believe what you believe.

**Summary:** When God tells us to move, we must move. And God's word is what He is saying so waiting on confirmation, prophecy, or an audible voice is not necessary when it comes to breaking fellowship. The word gave us the instructions and it's up to us to implement it. If we decide to go against what is written, then we are heaping tragedy and calamity upon our lives and may never get to where God desires us to be.

[1John 1:6](#) *If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

