

The background of the slide is a collage. The top half features a stack of papers on the left and a clock face on the right, both rendered in a purple and blue color scheme. The bottom half features a stack of papers on the left and a clock face on the right, both rendered in a green and yellow color scheme. The text is overlaid on these images.

Holy Friendships in the Real World

**Calvary Road Baptist
Church**
W.O.W. Winter Retreat
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What is a Holy Friendship

- **Holy friendship** - see it as a gift from God.

As I was in the prime of my days, When the friendship of God was over my tent;

- Job 29:4

- Affection and love—holy friendship—form deep connections.

A friend loveth at all times.

- Proverbs 17:17

- It is right to give thanks for the strength that helps us endure and for the grace that forges holy friendships that sustain us.

I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

- Philippians 4:13

- One of the greatest benefits of holy friendship is that it helps us to be on guard against its opposite.

How long does a Holy Friendship last?

- "Friends are friends forever, if the Lord is the Lord of them
And a friend will not say never, cause the welcome will not end
Though it's hard to let you go, in the Father's hands I know
That a lifetime's not too long... to live as friends."

-Michael W Smith



Recipe of an Unholy Friendship

- **Holy** can become **Unholy**

Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The person who does what is good is from God. The person who does what is evil has never seen God.

- 3 John 1:11

- **Unholy alliances are the flip side of holy friendship.**

Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.

- Proverbs 27:6

- **Friendship** can bond two people in **irresponsibility** or **responsibility**. It can be a **blessing** to the community or a **curse**.

The righteous is a guide to his neighbor, But the way of the wicked leads them astray.

- Proverbs 12:26

Unholy Friendships

- Contrary to the world's definition of friendship as a place where we can do or say anything, scripture contains examples of friendships we are called to throw away.

And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into the fire of hell.

- Matthew 18:9

- This sort of sacrifice is hard to hear, but the notion of unholy friendships rings true. We've all met stumbling blocks, and we've all been stumbling blocks to others. Unholy friendships exact a price, but they also may remind us of what we aspire to and what God has in mind for us.

The Holy Friendship

- In the end, if we are to see holy friendship as a gift from God, like other gifts, we can choose to respond in gratitude or in rejection.
- Understanding holy friendship as a gift is a practice we learn from God's Word.
- It's up to us whether we pick the "Holy" or the "Unholy" Friend.



The Holy Friendship

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit— fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other.

- John 15:12-17