

The Invitation

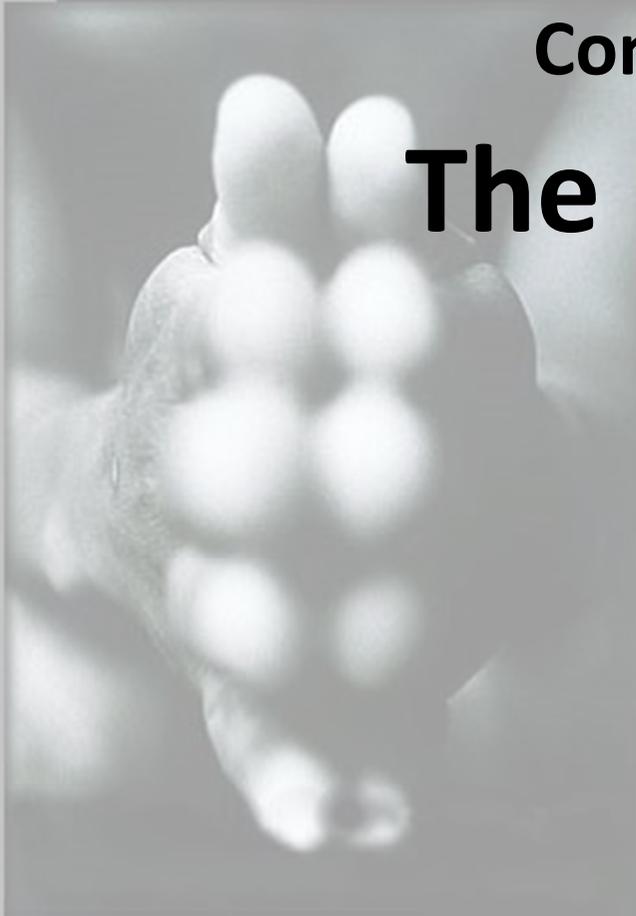
Fill out a pew card with a prayer request

Put them in the Offering Plate

Come Tonight at 6:00pm

The House of Prayer

Join in
The Word
Confession
And Prayer



Prayer

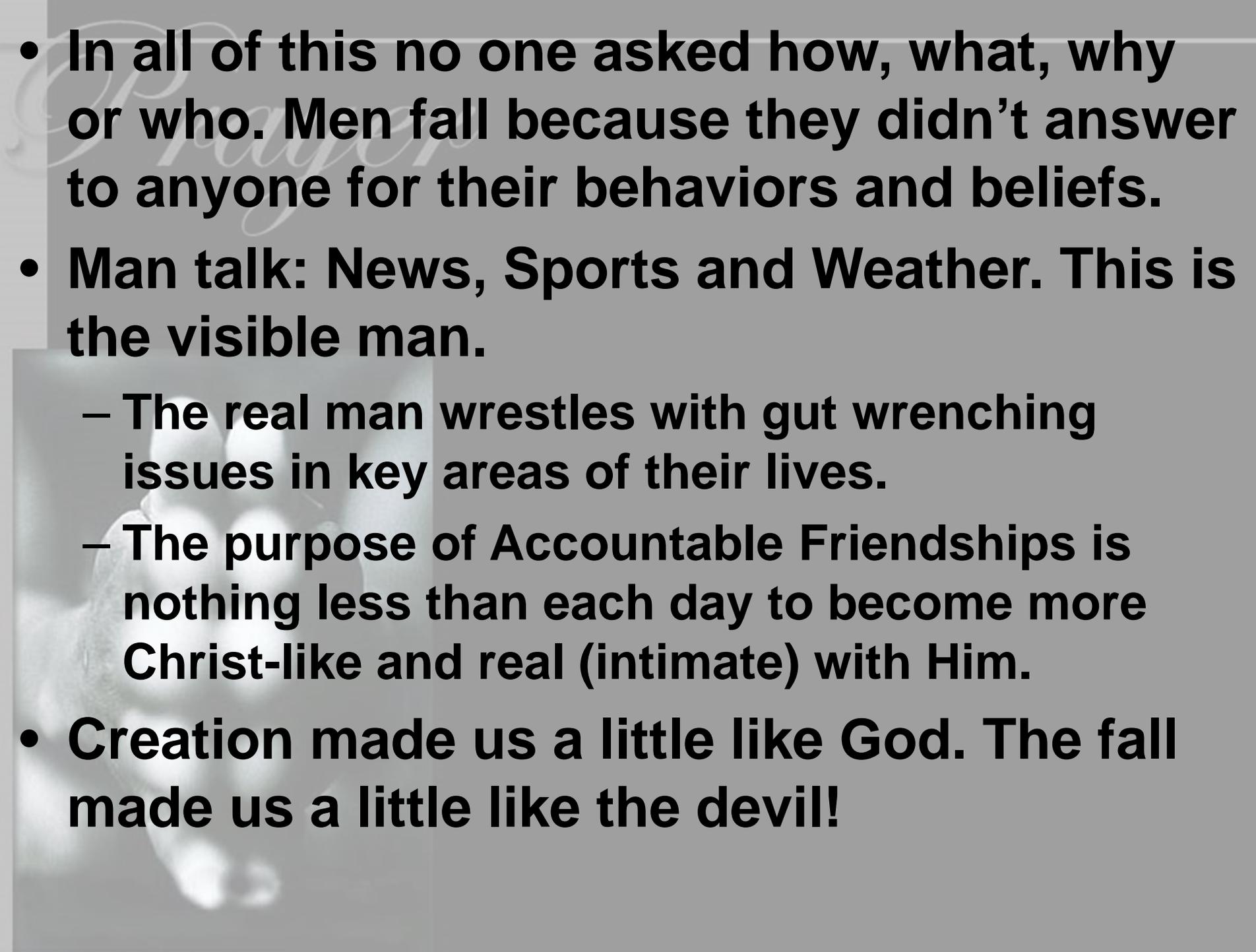
Accountable Friendships

John 13: 34-35

Proverbs 17:17, 18:24, 27:6, 10

Greatest Reason Men Get In Trouble

- They answer to no one for their lives.
- Every day men fail morally, spiritually, relationally and Financially. They WANT to succeed but have blind and weak spots which they think real men handle on their own.
- Some failures are spectacular crash and burn, but most 100's of tiny things, undetected decisions that slowly wear down their character.
- Subtly caught in webs of cutting corners, compromise, self-deceit.

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- **In all of this no one asked how, what, why or who. Men fall because they didn't answer to anyone for their behaviors and beliefs.**
 - **Man talk: News, Sports and Weather. This is the visible man.**
 - **The real man wrestles with gut wrenching issues in key areas of their lives.**
 - **The purpose of Accountable Friendships is nothing less than each day to become more Christ-like and real (intimate) with Him.**
 - **Creation made us a little like God. The fall made us a little like the devil!**

Ways of Accountability

MAKE RELATIONSHIPS YOUR TOP PRIORITY Prov.17:17

- Love down to us and out thorough us is meaningless without focus
- God gave us things to use and people to enjoy – Don't mix that up
- You may complain you have few friends. Truth: You do little to have friends. Or you may have too many friends so your relationships are an inch deep and a mile wide.
- Companions and friends are best found while giving yourself away.

CULTIVATE TRANSPARENCY Prov.27:6

- Honesty, openness cultivate friendship. Install more windows and put up fewer doors. Walls are about fearing rejection. Windows are about being at peace with our strengths and weaknesses.
- How would you handle this? “You are impossible. Your opinions have a slap in them for everyone who differs with you. Your friends find they enjoy themselves better when you are not around.” Honesty pulls people in. Craftiness pushes them away.

DARE TO SPEAK OF YOUR CARE Prov.17:17;Jn.13:34-35

- Why do we hesitate to communicate warmth and interest?
- We fear rejection, embarrassment, and appropriate openness.
- If you wish to be loved (honored and respected) then be the first to do this to others!
- Sayre and Piccolo story: “You flatter me by giving me this award, but I tell you here and now that I accept it for Brian Piccolo. Brian Piccolo is a man of courage who should receive the George S. Halas Award. I love Brian Piccolo and I’d like you to love him. Tonight, when you hit your knees, please ask God to love him too.”
- Warning: Don’t be a GUSHER a PRESSURIZER or a RAMRODDER
- But do not wait till its too late to speak of your love.

LOVE IS SOMETHING YOU DO Prov.18:24; 27:10

- Love is commanded by Jesus, it is something you do. Emotions ebb and flow and only provide context for coloring love. Love does not depend on emotion but the will and conscious choice.

- Love is found in the little rituals in life. Love is cultivated not assumed.
- Kindness is not subject to the ebb and flow of emotions. It is an extension of a heart of Christ likeness.

LOVE IS NOT POSSESSIVE:CREATE SPACE Phil.2:4,

I Sam.18:1-10

- The Destroyer of Love; The Great Pretender-----CONTROL
- We will flee manipulators – people who dominate, “advise” control and judge.
- Relationships have two great needs: We long to be in relationship with each other AND we desire freedom.
- If you see all your human contacts as a power struggle and your object is to dominate others – meet Adolf Hitler!
- Manipulation styles: Take Charge: Poor Me; and Need to be Needed
- Love is not enough – response – ability and freedom are the soil in which love grows

JESUS SAYS

As I Have Loved You...are not these courageous way the Father loves us? Jn.13:34-35