

## ***Family Resemblance***

### ***Friendship Day 2015***

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

- A. Most of us have some resemblance to our physical family.
- B. We were created in the image and likeness of our heavenly Father (Gen. 1:26-27; Eph. 4:24).
- C. Let's consider four ways we as children of God, should resemble our heavenly father when it comes to how we deal with those who are lost.

#### **DON'T BE A RESPECTER OF PERSONS**

- A. God does not favor people because of who they are or what they do (Acts 10:27-29; 34-35).
- B. Favoritism is forbidden throughout scripture (Deut. 10:17-19; Jam. 2:1-4, 8-11).
- C. Our actions and/or lack of actions can demonstrate favoritism toward certain individuals.

#### **BELIEVE IN PEOPLE**

- A. God believes the best in people even when we may not (Acts 9:10-16, 26-28).
- B. Loving our neighbor means believing the best in them (I Cor. 13:4-7).
- C. When we fail to believe in others, we are failing to believe in God.

#### **EXTEND GRACE AND MERCY TO PEOPLE**

- A. God is in the business of grace and mercy (Eph. 2:4-9).
- B. God doesn't extend grace and mercy because of who we are, but because of who He is (Psa. 86:5).
- C. Just as God is gracious and merciful, we ought to be gracious and merciful as well (Luke 6:36).

#### **CELEBRATE WHEN PEOPLE CHANGE**

- A. We are a culture that likes to celebrate, especially when it comes to the physical.
- B. God celebrates every time a lost person is found (Lk. 15:22-33).
- C. When a sinner repents and makes his or her life right with God, a soul has been saved from death (Jam. 5:19-20). This should cause celebration among Christians.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

- A. As children of God, we ought to resemble God in how we see and treat those who are lost.
- B. God has gone to great depths to save those who are lost.
- C. What depths are you and I willing to go for those who are lost?