

Full Sermon Transcript: Must Become Friendly

April 18, 2026

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Lord Heavenly Father, thank you for getting us through this week. Thank you for getting us through last month. Thank you that your mercy is new every day. That you still have your arm reached out for us. That you are still calling. That you are still long-suffering. That you are still waiting. That you are still there. That you are still here. That you are still on your throne. We do ask you for help throughout the rest of this service. Help us to worship you for the entirety of the service time. Help us to pray to feel your presence. To acknowledge your presence with raised arms and raised voices. Please help us to come out of our shells. Please help us to be open to you. Your presence, your heart, your will, your spirit. Please help us to become the people that you are creating. That you did design. The people of your kingdom. And your beautiful bride. Your best friend. Your co-workers. Your servants. The people of your kingdom. We accept your anointing and your blessing on this message. And it will not go in vain. Your people will apply your spirit. Your will. Your instructions. Your people will apply themselves. Your people will hear your call. Listen and obey. We will become your people. All of this in Jesus' name, the Church says. Amen. You may be seated.

We're starting in Romans chapter 12. And it is April the 18th, 2026. We are starting in Romans chapter 12. I have never in my life heard this sermon preached anywhere. I've never heard it taught from scripture. But it is definitely a teaching of scripture. As you will see. Romans 12 verse 13. Let's go back a little bit. You may find verse 9. Let's start in verse 9. Let love be without hypocrisy. Detest what is evil. Claim to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Give preference to one another in honor. Not lagging behind in diligence. That means in your effort. Fervent, which also talks about effort. Fervent, passionate in spirit. Serving the Lord. Rejoicing in hope. We must have hope. Never give up. And rejoice in that hope of the future. Persevering in tribulation. Perseverance. Holding on to that hope. And rejoicing in the future. Even in the midst of tribulation. Devoted to prayer. That's intimacy with the Lord. Contributing to the needs of the saints. With your tithes, offerings and your actual presence at their homes; helping them with their lawn work, their cars, whatever that needs to be done. Practicing hospitality.

Practicing hospitality. Two Greek words there. The word hospitality in Greek means to love, to show your love to strangers. To show your love to strangers. People you don't know. And the Greek word for practice there in this verse means to run to. Even to swiftly pursue after that. To seek eagerly, earnestly. To earnestly endeavor to acquire what you are pursuing, running after. It shows passion. It shows effort. It's not a casual hospitality, love toward strangers. That just comes natural. But it is actively pursuing, making forth an effort to show that love to people you don't even know. The sermon topic today is that we must become friendly. I word it in the way become because the modern society has lost humanity. Therefore a lot of people are not friendly. Therefore the name of the sermon is we must become friendly. We must pursue, make forth strong effort. Pursue, chase after, becoming friendly toward people we don't know. And to one another and to people we do know. In modern Western society we have become programmed to not look at people. To look the other way. To not look people in the eye. To pretend they're not there. Honestly, we have been programmed to pretend someone is not standing right next to us. When we go to the gym, pretend they don't even exist. In the grocery store or walking on a trail, hiking, and you walk, come up one person or two people or a family.

People don't talk, people don't say hi, don't even look toward each other. Look the other way, pretend they're not even there.

That's our society today and that's not good. Neither is that acceptable to God for his people to act in that dark, demonic, loveless way of the world.

The Bible says to not be transformed by the world, to not be conformed to the world, but be transformed by the renewing of the Spirit.

Salvation means God is inside of us, his presence. The Bible says that God is love and that all the commandments are about how we show love to God and how we show love to other people.

That's what the commandments are all about. But we're not showing love to people if we're ignoring them.

If we show up for worship services once a week, but we don't call or visit church members all week long, forever, that is the pattern of most churches.

If we're ignoring our best friends, other people, people in need, this is not love.

We are to be people of love toward people we know and people we don't know. If love exists in us, Jesus, if he exists in us, why would we not display his presence that is in us?

If we have a light, do we hide our light or do we let our light shine? As that old gospel song, to let your light shine, let my light shine.

As the scripture says, to not hide the light. If God is in us, why would people not know that he is in us?

If we're in a building and nobody in that building knows that God is in us, then is he really in us?

Or is he in us only one percent? Do we have literally one milligram of Christ? Or do we have a thousand milligrams of Christ inside of us? Or do we have half a ton of Christ inside of us?

If we are growing in the measure of the Holy Ghost every year as we should be, then why are we not more friendly this year than what we was last year?

Why do we not have more discernment this year than what we had last year? Why do we not read the scripture more this year or pray more this year than what we did last year?

We grow in the measurement of the Holy Ghost by continuing to pray, to read scripture, to participate in activities of the ministry, and reaching out to people.

Reaching out to people, showing your Christ-like love to other people is part of how you grow in the Holy Ghost.

To grow, you must work muscles. Whether you're talking physically or spiritually, to grow in something that is good and strong and become stronger in it, you must work those muscles.

If we want to be more friendly, then we have to try to be friendly. If we want to be more Christ-like, then we have to try to be more Christ-like.

If we want to grow in the Holy Ghost, then we must try to act like we've got more of the Holy Ghost, because by doing it, by performing it, it naturally grows within us.

Verse 20, go all the way down to verse 20, But if your enemy is hungry, feed him.

And if he is thirsty, give him a drink. For in so doing you will heap burning coals on his head. Amen.

Now the Bible does talk about many times, that there is a time of rebuke, and a time of disfellowship, and casting away, and punishing the wicked.

All those things are found in the Scripture, even the New Testament. But we are not to execute revenge on a personal level.

There's a time for war, that type of revenge. But on a personal level, not seeking personal revenge.

And if we see our enemy is starving, then we are to recognize that is a human being, with parents, with people that do love that person, even though they are maybe not worthy of love, but somebody loves them, a grandmother, a sister, a brother.

That we are to recognize they are human. They work. We're created to serve God, even if they're not. And we would want all people to repent, and eventually find the truth, and serve God in the truth, and be saved, whether it's this life or the next life.

We would want that for anyone. So we do feed the hungry, even if it is the enemy.

And in so doing, we set that example of love, we set that example of light, and that we're not like the world.

And in that regard, it does act as burning coals on their forehead, and could be exactly what causes them to change direction and repent.

Go up to verse 18. If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all people.

It's not always possible. But as far as it is possible, it says, be at peace with people.

Let's go to Matthew 25 verse 35, in the last section of that chapter, talking about the Great White Throne Judgment. For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger. You showed me that hospitality. You showed me that love. You showed me that hospitality. You showed me that love. You invited me in. And that was their culture in that day and time, is they would invite in strangers into their homes and feed them.

And where's their feed? That was their culture. And I say that's a pretty good culture. Amen.

Of course, you do have to use discernment. It would be dangerous if you don't have any discernment.

You have to judge. You have to preface judgment. You absolutely have to. You have to exercise discernment.

But if you're exercising discernment, inviting strangers in, that doesn't mean everyone that passes by the house.

You say, hey, stop and come on in my house. But there are times that you meet people in your life, and you learn that they're homeless, and you learn their situation, and you learn they're not a drug addict, and you learn that actually they're a decent person that just fell on misfortune and happenstance, circumstances beyond their control, and ended up homeless.

And that does happen, especially now more than ever before. There are people in society that are homeless not because of bad choices and drugs and lack of responsibility, but rather there are some homeless people in modern society because the landlord immediately doubled their rent.

It does happen. So there are times in life in which we will meet someone in need, a stranger that beyond their control that they are homeless and need a helping hand that may not have any family or else they refuse to accept help from family because they are mature.

So they need a friend. Amen. In this Great White Throne judgment, he's basically saying to these people, you did practice that love toward strangers. Amen. It is a requirement.

And look at the book of Luke, chapter 10, verse 27.

And he answered, you should love the Lord your Theos with all of your heart, with all of your soul, with all of your strength, with all of your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.

Today in modern Western society, most of your neighbors are strangers. But even if they're stranger or not stranger, but you know them and you know what their name is and you know what they do for a living and so forth, either way, strangers or not, living at peace with all men as much as it is possible, sometimes it's not, but showing love to your neighbor when that is possible.

Of course, they are programmed to always look the other way and to flee and run away from you when you are approaching.

Many, many, many times I have wanted to approach this man straight across the street from here, but every time I get close to him, he goes the other direction because everybody's programmed to go the other direction as soon as they see somebody approaching them.

So it's not always possible to show your love if they're running away from you. But if they will not run away from you, we are to make an attempt.

God won't hold us accountable if it's impossible because they're running the other direction.

But when they're not running the other direction, and it is possible for us to talk to them, God wants us to do that, to talk to people and get to know people and show them love in a way that we're making an effort on our part, on our side, that we are making an effort.

We are pursuing our attempt. We may have to tackle that man because the Bible says I have to pursue him.

It's going to happen sooner or later. But you have to try harder in this generation.

You really do have to try harder when they are not going to try to meet you halfway.

And just like here in the sanctuary, we have to try hard to worship and not wait for lights, camera, action.

We are to put forth an effort in life in general. In many different areas of our life, we need to put forth effort because things are not just going to fall on our lap.

We have to put forth effort in worship, in being friendly, in being outgoing, exercising, eating right, getting the sunshine that our body craves and needs so desperately.

We have to put forth an effort to do it. The sunshine ain't going to peel back the ceiling and force its way in.

We actually have to open the door and go outside. The banana or the avocado is not going to jump in our stomach.

We have to go and buy it, and we have to make those choices, what to eat and what not to eat, reduce the bad things and to increase the good things in food, exercise, clothing, music.

In every area of our life, decrease the bad and increase the good. Put forth an effort in all these things, not lacking behind indulgence.

Go to Galatians chapter 5 verse 22, which talks about the fruits of the Spirit. And the fruits of the Spirit is love and joy and peace and patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. But you notice love is something you do toward people. Patience is something you do toward people. Peace is something you do toward people. Kindness and goodness is something you do toward people. Gentleness is something you do toward people. How you react, interact, interact relationships with strangers and people that you know, friends and so forth, associates, coworkers, how you interact with people. And talking about interaction, interaction, there's a verse here. Where is it? Oh, here it is.

1 Corinthians 15. Let's look at that. Since we're talking about interacting with people. 1 Corinthians 15, and of course that is the resurrection chapter. But verse 33 talks about this so that we can get to the resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15, verse 33, do not be deceived. Bad company corrupts good morals.

So I looked at the Greek word for company. Some translations actually say bad communication.

So I had to really look at that Greek word. It's the only time in the whole Bible where it appears.

The whole Bible. So it's a very rare Greek word. So I had to take extra effort to really look at that word and see what it really means.

And it's interaction with people. Interaction with people. So some translations would say company as in the group you hang out with. And other translations would say communication.

But what it really is, is you've got to have both in that Greek word. That Greek word requires the presence of other people and your interaction with them.

Your communication, how you're talking with them, how they're talking with you. This interaction with people.

So it would be true that if you are interacting with bad people, evil people on a regular basis and you're inviting that type of people in your home and being best buddies with wicked people and hanging out with wicked people, that is going to corrupt good manners and morals.

But it's how you interact with people. Not just there are people present, but how you interact with them.

So how you interact or treat people, how you talk to people or not talk to people, can corrupt morals and values and your soul.

The commandments are all about how you show love or rather you don't show love toward God and humans.

You don't always have to do something to commit a sin. Sometimes a sin is what you're not doing.

Not obeying God is a sin. Not doing what God wants you to do is a sin. You don't have to do something to sin. You can do sin, have sin, by the absence of obedience or absence of following through of God's will.

Let's go to Hebrews 13 verse 1. Let love of the brethren continue. Why does it say let, allow?

You have to make effort, right? If it's saying allow the love to continue, there must be something that wants to block it.

If you must allow it, there must be something that's not allowing it, right? Something that's not allowing it could be how we're programmed in modern society or a person standing in your way or an attitude or a mentality standing in your way.

But allow love of the brethren to continue. Do not neglect. It's not always what you do, but sometimes what you don't do. Do not neglect to show hospitality.

Again, love to strangers. Do not neglect to show love to strangers. For by this some have had angels as their guests without knowing it. Without knowing it, some people invited angels into their homes.

We know that Abraham and Lot both invited angels, and one of those was even God himself in both cases, I think.

I know Abraham, but maybe even in Lot's case, God himself was one of the three that visited.

And remember the prisoners. So we need to add a reference here to Matthew 25 at the end of verse 3, because both these verses, verse 2 and 3, have a connection to Matthew 25, to visiting the prisoners and showing love and hospitality to strangers and people and inviting people in.

Verse 2 goes back to that verse about you invited me in, and then verse 3 goes back to the verse about prisoners.

So that's interesting. I never saw that connection before, but it's there, ain't it?

How did they 2,000 years ago show love to strangers? In that day and time, they would invite strangers in because people were walking for thousands of miles, literally.

And they're like, okay, you got another 20 miles to go, you got another 500 miles to go, come and stay with me

overnight and rest.

And we'll feed you and we'll water you and we'll bathe you, literally, with our own hands.

They did more than just wash their feet. And they took care of that person until that person was well enough to go back on the journey. Amen.

They didn't always have a hotel to stay at. 2,000 years ago, there wasn't so many holiday ends and Marriott's and Hilton's, right?

So they depended upon the goodwill of local people. Amen. But of course, you had to exercise discernment. Today, we might not invite as many strangers into our homes because it would be one of those rare occasions in which we find a homeless person in which it's safe to take in.

But that will occur really, truly in everybody's life sooner or later. It did many, many, many times in my life that I did take in homeless people many times over the years.

And some of them stayed with me for weeks at a time and others much less. Sometimes it would be one night and other times it would be days or weeks that the homeless would stay with me.

So I think in everybody's life, it eventually becomes one of those things that it does happen in your life eventually that you do meet someone in which is appropriate to take into your home, safely so, with that discernment.

They must be willing to do so and not neglect to do so when that opportunity does arise.

But when we do have somebody in our home, whether it's somebody trying to sell a set of encyclopedias or whatever, that if we do invite them in, that we make them feel welcome.

Offer them a glass of tea, a cup of coffee, make them feel welcome. If we invite co-workers home with us, make them feel welcome.

Would you like something to drink? Would you like something to eat? This is something in this region of the southeast United States, the Bible Belt, they call it, and especially in the Appalachian Mountain region here, that when I grew up, this was the culture in which you always wanted to ask if anyone that's coming to visit you, a neighbor coming over to visit you, anybody coming to visit you, that you feed them, that you give them something to drink, that you give them something to eat.

And I believe we'll go now to 1 Peter chapter 4 verse 8. Above all, keep fervent or be passionate in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins, and it really does.

That's something really to think about, that verse there, and it is very true. Be hospitable or show love to one another without complaint.

Do you see how multiple books of the Bible throughout Scripture, even Old Testament as well, multiple books, not just one or two or three, but even more than that, books of the Bible talks about this need to show your love, to not hide it, to not hold it back, to not neglect it, to not restrain it, to not quench it, quench not the spirit, but to show forth that love and even pursue to do so, even to pursue to do so, to be determined to do so.

That would include how we could apply this when we're walking on trails, whether it's a paved trail or a not paved trail, either way, to say hello to people as we pass them, look them in the eye, say hello, and say hello to people in the gym, if we're going to step right next to them and be one foot away from them, hello.

They may not answer back and that's fine. But what we do on our part to acknowledge there is a human being one foot away from me and not treat them as they don't exist.

And we'll have to step out of our comfort zone to do so because we are programmed to act just like the world.

But we got to stop acting like the world and be that one person that lights the fire to get the fire going bigger and stronger to where other people will also be emboldened to be more friendly and emboldened to say hello to other people on the trail or at the gym or at the store.

If we do it, we get the ball rolling. Pass on a smile that can really cheer someone's moment, maybe even their whole day or hour or two of their life become more pleasant because they're still thinking upon, wow, somebody actually smiled.

I'm not used to that. I'm not accustomed to that. But it feels good. I like it. And it has really made my day for this moment. That does happen. I've heard of it happen. I've experienced it myself.

It really does help sometimes for someone to smile, to someone to say hello, to someone to start a conversation.

And you never know when just a simple hello, Brother R has seen this, J has seen this, that I do try to practice this on the trails and at the gym.

And sometimes that becomes a whole conversation and at the doctor's office and even just getting x-rays.

And that conversation turns out to be instead of a hello, a three hour conversation with a person that amazingly knows

lots of truth and might grow in that truth because you simply acknowledged that they are a human being standing next to you and not a mindless dog or robot treating a person as a human being.

Very, very novel thing, a very new invention, I guess you could say, to treat someone as if they're human.

Another way we can apply this is to join local clubs, local organizations in order to try to find people to become, to help us become more social.

If we have more friends or more acquaintances, then we can develop and work those spiritual muscles of learning how to communicate, not being timid, not being fearful, more willing to look people in the eye, more willing to say hello.

If we have a larger range of socialization and develop those skills to return back to acting like a human being.

Right now I'm trying to get, and it's difficult the way everything is, but I'm pursuing to try to join the local history museum and another historical organization locally and also the Republican Party locally.

And it's difficult in all three of those that I'm trying to join, but God requires me to do my part, regardless of them ignoring us, to do my part to try to reach out, to try to be more social, to try to exercise humanity and make friends and be more social and do networking and evangelize in that way as well.

Let people know that we're here in this town, let people know that I saw the light ministry exists.

We can't just hide in the basement. We have to get out there and let people know that we're alive, that we exist. Amen.

We have to put forth a greater effort because really everybody now is low in the brain hormone GABA.

Two confirmations of this sermon after I entered into my computer that this would be the topic for the sermon, two confirmations came up rather quickly after that.

One of them being a social media post on Twitter. One of the people I follow posted how that low GABA levels reduces your socialization and how you don't want to look people in the eye and you don't want to project your voice and things like this and you don't want to be social with people but more of an introvert instead of outgoing is low GABA.

It's not just personality, it's brain hormones. But we can increase the GABA by getting more sunshine, which again takes effort, eating right, which again takes effort, and exercising, which again takes effort.

And when you're already low on the GABA and other brain hormones and dopamine, low in these levels, it's difficult to get started and be motivated and want to do any of these things because of that.

But with the help of the Holy Ghost, with the help of preaching, with the help of friends, with the help of provoking into good works, and the help of good example, when you see other people doing it, you see your friends doing it, you see your roommates doing it, you see other people in the church doing it, that is a motivation.

If you see social media posts, that is a push, a provoke into good works. You see how I'm sharing it, I'm posting it, I'm writing about it, I'm speaking about it, and I'm trying to apply it myself.

I may have struggles applying it myself, just like you do. But let's put forth an effort and we have to try extra hard because we are low in those hormones.

But those hormones can improve when we make the effort to get the sunshine, fresh air, eat breakfast outside, supper, every meal outside.

I even went so far as ordering a table, which maybe would be here in a couple of days or whenever, to sit outside, to eat at, and that would make it more, the word for it, which I had helped, not approachable, because it's a table, it's not a person.

But what's the word for it? I wish I had helped. I'm asking everyone to do your part to increase your GABA levels because I got people here and I have no help.

Easy words, but I'm becoming a senior citizen and my brain is not going to work as good as it should or as good as it used to.

I used to have a really good brain and excellent memory, but all these things are weakening as I get older, so I need younger people to step up to the plate more.

Increase your vocabulary, read books, spend less time on the computer because these computers are rotting our brains, literally rotting our brains, literally.

Read books (but be careful which books), research, go to the library, take walks, lay out in the sun, find things to do, find a hobby, do things that are going to build your brain rather than rotting your brain.

But a warning on this, don't be one of those fools that think that you should be friends with everybody; drug addicts, wicked people, Satan worshipers, I've known people in my life, multiple people in my life, they were extremely friendly people, but too friendly in which they want have to befriend every Satan worshiper in the world.

Of course we shouldn't do that because bad company does corrupt morals, whether it's bad people or bad interaction and interacting with the wrong people, however you want to define that, it does corrupt you and your soul when you are fellowshiping and being buddies and bumping fist with very evil people.

So we do have to exercise discernment and caution even though the whole world is lost, but we can't abstain from the whole world.

Even as Paul said that it was false Christians that he was warning us to avoid, not so much the world. Otherwise you would have to leave the world, he said. We can't just leave the world just because the whole world is lost.

When we join these clubs, there will be homosexuals, there will be atheists, there will be other people, but hey, we used to be atheists, we used to be homosexuals, we used to be Democrats, so forth, so forth.

“As some of you were, but now you are washed”, as scripture says, right? As scripture says, “as some of you were, but now you are washed.” Amen.

There is a hiking club here, other clubs, other organizations, and they're not going to be the most friendly, but we can change them slowly, one person at a time, one conversation at a time, one membership at a time.

Our influence upon them could be much greater than what you could imagine. If we put forth effort, our influence in these organizations can become significant if we have hope for the future and rejoice in hope of the future.

We can't just say, well, it's hopeless, it's not going to do no good to join or try to make a difference.

If we have that negative mentality that it's not going to make any difference for us to join because they're all lost people and they don't want to socialize, and so we keep making these excuses, then we're just digging our own grave.

We have to have hope and continue to live life and never give up and always continue to put forth an effort and get out there and live life and experience life while we still have life before we get so old we can't get out of the house. Amen.

I'm going to join these clubs even if I have to go knocking on their door instead of email and phone calls and try to make a difference and become on their board of directors is my goal, is to get on the board of directors of some of these historical societies and have my voice heard in this community, even if we got only one year or two years or five years because you never know that one hello might change someone's life.

That one hello might end up to be a huge composition. You don't know if you never put forth an effort and just make all the excuses to not try.

The other confirmation that God gave me in addition to the Twitter post that I read about GABA and how it interferes with socialization is also the television show called Hometown.

I love that show, Home Improvement Show, and she was talking about how hard it was in her childhood to make friends until something happened and she started making friends and I think it was centered around a tree house that she started making friends and when you have something for people to come to, if you have a club, if you have a club house, if you have a tree house, if you have a bicycle, if you have a motorcycle, if you have a boat, if you have something to draw people in or to start a conversation, conversation starters or something that you're like-minded with people, an interest that you share to get friends, to get socialization started to light a fire of conversation and interaction with human beings. Amen.

So I praise Jesus for two confirmations of the sermon and for his love and for him not giving up on me and us and you that he has put forth an effort with us. Amen.

He put forth a great effort on me, I know, tremendous effort and he reached, as that one song says, he reached way down for me. Amen.

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