

Title: Being A Godly Friend

Text: (Ecc 4:9-12)

God's Kingdom is about People – Prov 27:17

#1. The person is more important than the situation they are in.

God didn't die for the situation, marriage, addiction.

He died for their soul!

We need to Value People – It's a People Business

It's about relationships!

Our Business is High Touch: (Matt 8:2-3)

No IMPACT without CONTACT

Everybody loves newborn babes, but not diapers.

Everybody likes people to get saved, but it's a mess to grow people from the cross to the crown.

Unconditional Acceptance: (John 15:12,13,17)

Not Just the Pretty People or The People you like.

(Rom 12:9)

Not just the capable People: (James 2:1-4; 8-

Special Needs People: They don't need a handicap class, they need to be in with others that help them rise to the occasion.

Rom 5:8 Unconditional Acceptance – We lose sight that of the fact that we are a no good sinner. It starts with being a Friend of God's. (James 2:23)

Abraham Kept fresh by Time Spent with God: (Ex 33:11)

1. Do you add value to your friends? (Prov 27:17)

Do you encourage and challenge your friends to do right?

(Heb 10:24) *Consider, provoke (Intentional Ministry)*

We will need to actually put thought & effort into it.

Do you encourage people? Battery or a Drain.

Are you Neutral?

Do you care enough to tell them the truth?

(Prov 27:6) *Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.*

Godly friends are not afraid to lovingly and appropriately speak the truth to one another.

If we are doing it w/o love it is b/c our pride is hurt & we want to tell them how it is.

No one cares how much you know, until they know how much you care.

Why does your dog act like a dog?

Why do lost people act the way they do?

We have to stop cussing the darkness and light a candle.

You cannot Legislate Righteousness

When I got saved I was not doing anything right, but my preacher lovingly guided me to the scripture and how to apply it.

They recognize that every one has “*Blind Spots*” and they rejoice that God has given them “*Another set of Spiritual eyes*” to help guide, guard, and protect.

2. Are you a faithful friend?

Do you comfort and support your friends through adversity?

(Prov 18:24) *A man that hath friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.*

I believe this is a picture of action!

We are already saved and need to be befriending the Lost for the reason of reaching them for Christ.

We need to be sticking close to them, so we can reach them?

Are we the Godly friends that are eager to cooperate, encourage, and help our friends?

Even if it is you going through the adversity?

(Prov 17:17) *A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.*

Godly friends love each other.

Ministering to people is rarely convenient for us.
Illus: Sometimes like a MUDD Sandwich.

Proverbs teaches us that friends love at all times, especially in adversity.

No matter the circumstances you are in, we are to love others.

Are you the kind of friend that can unashamedly declare that you love them?

As people of God, are we able to say that we have friends for whom

God has truly given us a love for?

(Gal 6:6-9) *Faint Not* – have we discouraged our friends by quitting?

All they see is a hypocrite.

We get weary in well doing, because we think ministering to others, those people will meet some need in our life.

They will never meet our needs, our fulfillment is solely from God.

You cannot expect those you reach out to, to meet some need in your life.

“Prosperity begets friendship; Adversity reveals it!”

Do you hang around them because of what they have?

(Prov 19:4-7)

If you are looking to your kids, or your spouse to meet some need in your life they will fail you.

They can't meet your needs, you are doing it for the wrong reasons.

3. Are you a Forgiving Friend? (Prov 17:9) *He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very FRIENDS.*

People are people wherever you go.
Friends will eventually hurt each other-usually unintentionally.

Illus: Christians are like porcupines.

(2 Cor 3:17) *Where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.*

Godly friends quickly resolve tensions and forgives.

You are going to fail people, aren't you going to want to forgive you?

4. Are you a Rejoicing Friend?

(Prov 17:17) *A friend loveth at all times a brother is born for adversity.*

Jealousy is a Friendship Killer, that Satan uses!

ALL TIMES – Can our friends succeed?

Can our friends succeed beyond us?

Illus: Swedish proverb –Friendship doubles our joy& halves our grief's

Are we the Godly type of friend that rejoices in the blessings of a friend

Have we allowed space in our friendships for jealousy, comparison, or envy?

5. Are you a Growing Friend? Friends grow together, but also they grow at the same time!
They discover Truth together.
They talk about Truth.

– what God is teaching them/taught them.

They encourage each other in it and through it
Truth is the Common bond of their hearts –

A love for God's Word.

A Love for communicating God's Truth to others.

6. Godly friends do not share or harbor anger.

(Prov 22:24)

Do we infect our friends with our anger and bitterness?

Friends got each other's back, take up for each other!

A Critical Spirit is another tool of Satan to kill friendships.

Do our friends have the Freedom to Fail?

Do our friends have the Freedom to be Honest with us?

Do our friends have the Freedom to Succeed?

Do our friends have the Freedom to have other Friends?