



January 30, 2022

"FRIENDS: GOTTA HAVE THEM, GOTTA BE ONE"

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GENESIS 2:18 (ESV) Then the Lord God said, "It's not good that the man SHOULD BE ALONE."

TRUTH: The Bible has a lot to say about loneliness.

INSIGHT: Because God made us relational, we are social creatures and don't do well with isolation.

I. TYPES OF FRIENDSHIPS

1. Casual friends can be the result of my circumstances.
2. Close friends should be the result of my choices.

Three circles of friends in every youth's and adult's life:

1. The outer circle: your casual friends
2. The middle circle: your close friends
3. The inner circle: your core friends

TRUTH: The closer I am to a person the greater their influence in my life. So, I need to choose my closest friends wisely.

These circles of friends are exactly how Jesus lived His life:

1. Outer circle: Jesus loved everybody.
2. Middle circle: Jesus disciplined the twelve.
3. Inner circle: Jesus mentored the three (Galatians 2:9).

Two types of friends in our lives we need to identify:

1. VDP's: very draining friends
2. VIP's: very inspirational friends

II. WHO NOT TO CHOOSE AS A FRIEND

INSIGHT: The wrong friends can pull God's kids down into sin easier than God's kids can pull their lost friends up out of sin.

ABIDING PRINCIPLE OF EVERY CHRISTIAN'S LIFE: It is never God's will for a Christian to date an unbeliever to win them to Christ (2 Corinthians 6:14; 1 Corinthians 15:33).

Types of "bad company" Christians avoid as CLOSE friends:

1. People who like to argue (Proverbs 20:3).
2. People who gossip (Proverbs 20:19)

INSIGHT: God hates gossiping.

INSIGHT: Don't use prayer to hide gossip; God hates that.

3. Don't have as close friends people who can't control their temper. There are three basic types:

- a) Mt. Vesuvius
- b) Skunks
- c) Turtles (Proverbs 22:24-25)

TRUTH: People you hang with are the people you're going to become in time.

4. People who steal or shoplift (Proverbs 1:13-15)

III. HOW TO BE KNOWN AS A BEST FRIEND

INSIGHT: Your core friend list should be those who:

1. Encourage you spiritually.
2. Support you emotionally.
3. Challenge you mentally.

TRUTH: To have a best friend we must be a best friend.

INSIGHT: The secret of making friends is to be interested, not interesting.

INSIGHT: If you're a good listener, you'll never lack for friends. The world is looking for people who would be interested IN THEM.

TRUTH: To be a friend, be considerate: listen well and empathize.

TRUTH: The most important thing in anyone's life is their time and their attention.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF THIS WEEK:

1. Are my friends helping or hindering my spiritual growth?
2. Am I dating a person who can cause me to miss God's purpose?
3. Which of my friends do I need to invite to church?
4. Life groups are the best place to find friends and be a friend. What's my life group status?