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## "THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD FRIENDS"

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**PROVERBS 18:24 (ESV)** "A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."

**PROVERBS 27:10 (ESV)** "Do not forsake your friend and your father's friend, and do not go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity. Better is a neighbor (friend) who is near, than a brother who is far away."

**INSIGHT:** We believe that the majority of what God wants to do in your life, He does best in a Life Group.

**TRUTH:** The major spiritual changes in your life won't come from weekly attendance to preaching and singing (Acts 2:46).

**TRUTH:** The heart of Christianity and our church life is Life Groups; that's where consistent, healthy Christian living gets its strength.

### I. THE BIBLE EMPHASIS ON FRIENDSHIPS

**TRUTH:** The Bible points you to seek godly friendships in the body as a resource for godly counsel. We call that Life Groups.

**TRUTH:** Our trinitarian God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – has existed eternally as a community of friends.

**INSIGHT:** Biblical community, friendships, in Life Groups is godly; isolation is ungodly.

**INSIGHT:** It is impossible to obey the "one another" commands of scripture in a large worship context. It can only happen in Life Group setting.

### II. THE VALUE OF FRIENDSHIPS

#1. Friends determine the direction of our lives (Prov. 13:20).

**TRUTH:** We all have this need for acceptance.

**INSIGHT:** Parents, Proverbs 13:20 says the most formative power in the life of your kids is the community they are around.

**WARNING:** Your child is less likely to follow your teaching and more likely to follow their friends.

#2. Friends redirect our lives from bad decisions (Prov. 27:6).

**INSIGHT:** A friend, God says, can usually tell you when you're about to do something stupid and you can't see it.

**TRUTH:** We all need real friends who will point out our blind spots and tell us the truth.

#3. Friends take care of us when life falls apart (Ecc. 4:9ff).

**REAL FRIENDSHIP:**

1. A friend is someone who multiplies your joys and divides your grief.
2. A friend is a watch which beats true for all time and never runs down.
3. Irma Bombeck: "A friend is somebody who won't go on a diet when you're fat!"
4. The best definition: "A friend is someone who will walk into your house when the whole world has just walked out!"

**III. OBJECTIONS TO LIFE GROUPS YOU SHOULD DISCARD**

1. I'm too busy...I don't have time; it's another night of the week.
2. I don't want people knowing my business.

**INSIGHT:** No one is going to ask you about your personal business this week in Life Group.