

What on Earth Are We Here For? Week Three: Christ-Centered Friendships

Getting Started: Take a few minutes and discuss this question: **What are some qualities that you look for in a friendship? What kind of qualities do you want to avoid at all costs?**

Relationships are an essential component in life. Even in the very beginning, God said, “It is not good for man to be alone....” We are created to experience deep community with each other. But relationships can be a dual edged sword – they can bring out the best or worst in us.

Bible Study:

Read Proverbs 13:20 –

Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.

1) Put this verse into your own language. As you have observed life, how have you seen this proverb played out?

2) What does it mean to “walk with” someone or to be his or her companion? Discuss the word “influence” as it relates to this verse.

There are no Lone Rangers in life. We all need people in our lives. Not only do we need others, *God desires* for his people to live in community.

Read this series of verses:

Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up...

(I Thessalonians 5:11)

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you... ” (Romans 15:17)

Serve one another in love. (Galatians 5:13)

Carry each other’s burdens... (Galatians 6:2)

Spur one another on toward love and good deeds. (Hebrews 10:24)

Be kind and compassionate toward one another ... (Ephesians 4:32)

3) What do these verses have in common?

4) There are over 50 verses in the New Testament that use the phrase “one another.” Based on the examples above, what vision do you think God has for the way Jesus-followers relate to each other?

5) Hebrews 10:24 (above) uses the word “spur.” Talk about what “spurring” others toward the things of God looks like practically.

Application:

1) Imagine working on a job where your closest work companion was a complainer about everything. How would that affect your work?

2) Now suppose for a moment that you worked with an inexhaustible encourager. How would that affect your work?

3) There are commands in the Bible which cannot be obeyed unless we are living in relationship with other Christians. How do we develop these relationships? What are the obstacles to finding/building Christ-centered friendships?

4) Think of a friend of yours (or family member) that is also journeying with God. What attributes would you like to develop to become a better friend to that person?

5) In the weekend service, David said that it is possible that “isolation is the greater pandemic.” Reflect on that idea. How does a person move from isolation to engagement with others?

For Additional Study:

Through the week, take a look at I John 4:20-21.

The Apostle John says that it’s impossible to have an isolated faith. How is love for our “brothers and sisters” in the faith made real?