

## **What is a Friend (2-14-16) Week 1** **Exciting FCOG, Pastor Peter Smith**

Next several weeks a new sermon series on Friendship

- To help understand our mission in life
- To help us focus on the destiny of our loved ones
- To help us make disciples!
- Jesus said, The greatest commandment is this: Love God, Love People...Go, Make Disciples!

**Do you have a best friend?**

**Are you being a real friend to someone else?**

**Is there a Biblical test to know?**

Prov. 17:17: a friend loves at all times and a brother is born for adversity.

**Q: What's life like w/out a best friend?**

Answer: lonely!

- we've all been there at one point
- God made us to be social creatures, don't function properly otherwise.

**2 kinds of friends: Genuine & False**

A. counsel of a false friend is found in their advice:

1. urging to have sex outside marriage
2. wrong pursuit of wealth (doesn't matter how you get there)
3. to seek selfish desires
4. in flattery

Prov. 29:5: "Whoever flatters his neighbor is spreading a net for him"

B. Job had false friends

1. They deserted him when in need
2. Job said,
  - they scorned me
  - they forgot me

-they didn't pity me

## **Today, let's look at what a genuine friend is**

### **A. A friend is someone who knows you**

**Quote:** someone has said, "a friend knows all about you but loves you anyway!"

### **B. A friend is someone who loves you.**

-Just as God does, in the good & the bad

- Wrong decisions in life
- Sometimes we do things that cause embarrassment and your friend is there regardless!

### **C. A friend has things in common with you**

-we tend to gravitate towards those w/ common traits

### **D. A friend protects you**

-life's lessons are sometimes hard. We learn this one usually by trial & error.

-story of King David as a young man and the king's son Jonathan, who risked his life to spare David.

### **E. A friend makes you happy**

-**"Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of one's friend's springs from his earnest counsel" –Prov. 27:9**

-we want to be around our friends, and they around us. Ever want to stay and stay at a friend's house?!

### **F. A friend helps you in times of trouble**

-this is a test of true friendship

-remember the parable of the good Samaritan?

-**Today**, if you got in trouble, who would you call?  
That person is probably your best friend!

**ie:** lady in police care shouting out the window: "Pastor Peter! Help me!!"

### **G. A friend is loyal**

-they are dependable, there for you, to listen, support

- **Gram's sickness & Pat or**
- **Wayne drove up to College Park, in a lightning storm, to come and tow my van back to Federalsburg!**

### **H. A friend brings out the best in you**

**Prov. 27:17: "As iron sharpens iron so one man sharpens another"**

-Henry Ford once said, My best friend is the one who brings out the best in me!

-Barnabas helped Saul (Paul)

**"Saul went to Jerusalem and tried to join the disciples. But they would not believe that he was a disciple, and they were all afraid of him. <sup>27</sup> Then Barnabas came to his help and took him to the apostles. He explained to them how Saul had seen the Lord on the road and that the Lord had spoken to him. He also told them how boldly Saul had preached in the name of Jesus in Damascus."**

**-Acts 9:26-27, GNB**

### **I. A friend is interested in your spiritual well being.**

A. The first disciples were introduced to Jesus by their friends:

#### **Andrew & Peter:**

**"Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus..."**

**-John 1:40-42b**

**Phillip & Nathanael: Vs. 45-46:**

“Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked. “Come and see,” said Philip.

**How would you answer these questions today?**

1. How many hell raising friends do you have today?  
-if your circle of friends are only Christians,  
how will others hear and be saved?
2. Would your friend be offended if he knew what you said behind his / her back last week?  
-if they knew you were praying for them, they  
wouldn't!!
3. Do you listen to your friend when they have problems?  
-if so, you are being a true friend
4. When was the last time you prayed for your friend?
5. Do you know if your friend is a Christian? Would you like to give him / her the opportunity to be?

**My Action step today:**

**I will begin to pray and invite my friends to follow Jesus.**

**Invite your friends to Friend Day** on March 20, a day that may be remembered for eternity by your friend!