

God's Design for Friendship

[Friendship] is the most important-least talked about relationship in the church. – Kevin DeYoung



Friendship According to Jesus

Befriended by God – John 15:13, 15



Friendship According to Jesus

Befriended by God – John 15:13, 15

Through Jesus' sacrifice for us, we move from being enemies of God to becoming friends of God—fully known and welcomed by God through faith in Jesus.



Friendship According to Jesus

Be a friend according to the pattern of Jesus

- Sacrifice – John 15:13
- Initiative – John 15:15-16
- Disclosure – John 15:15



Friendship According to Jesus

- We must reclaim biblical friendship as testimony of God's design for same-sex relationships in a culture that twists God's design in this area.



Friendship According to Jesus

- We must reclaim biblical friendship as testimony of God's design for same-sex relationships in a culture that twists God's design in this area.
- We must also reclaim biblical friendship is a means of grace for all believers, but especially for the believer who struggles with same-sex attraction.



Friendship According to Proverbs

Seek to be a friendly neighbor to all and cultivate a few meaningful friendships with those you'll journey together with through life.



Friendship According to Proverbs

1. A true friend is there for you

- “A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” – Proverbs 18:24
- “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.” – Proverbs 17:17



Friendship According to Proverbs

2. A true friend is honest with you

- “Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.” – Proverbs 27:5-6



Friendship According to Proverbs

- *Be Careful*

- If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame. – Proverbs 18:13

- The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things.” – Proverbs 15:28



Friendship According to Proverbs

- *Be Trustworthy*

- Whoever covers an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends – Proverbs 17:9



Friendship According to Proverbs

- *Be Timely*

- Whoever blesses his neighbor with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, will be counted as cursing. – Proverbs 27:14
- Whoever sings songs to a heavy heart is like one who takes off a garment on a cold day and like vinegar on a soda.
– Proverbs 25:20



Friendship According to Proverbs

An honest friend allows Ephesians 4:15 and James 1:19 to be their guide: 1) speak the truth in love so as to build up and 2) be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger.



Friendship According to Proverbs

3. A true friend is wise

- “Oil and perfume make the heard glad, and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel.” – Proverbs 27:9



Friendship According to Proverbs

A wise friend aims to point people to Christ or to help grow into Christlikeness.



Friendship According to Proverbs

A wise friend...

- Gets to know your friends' heart and critical influences
- Talks about hardship and suffering
- Talks about sin and repentance
- Reminds your friend of the gospel



Friendship Across Political Divide

I met those of our society who had votes in the ensuing election, and advised them: 1. To vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy; 2) To speak no evil of the person they voted against; and 3) to take care their spirit were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side. - John Wesley



Friendship Across Political Divide

- Carefully read the Gospels, Isaiah, Romans, and James.
- Pray and eat with people whose politics differ from yours.
- Name 1-2 weaknesses of your own party.
- Name 1-2 strengths of the other party.
- Vote your conscience.
- Fight evil.
- Advance good.

