

BECOMING A GODLY FRIEND

INTRODUCTION:

How does the world define a true friend?

Two main questions:

1. What qualities set a Godly friend apart from a worldly friend?
2. How does one acquire those qualities?

TYPES OF FRIENDS:

1. _____

- _____ - Proverbs 19:4, 6

- _____ - Psalm 15:1,4

2. _____

- _____ - Proverbs 25:17; 27:14; 26:18-19

- _____ - Proverbs 11:12

- _____ - Proverbs 3:30

3. _____

- _____ - Proverbs 17:9; 24:29

- _____ - Proverbs 17:17; 27:10

- _____ - 1 Corinthians 15:33; Romans 15:2

CONCLUSION:

TABLE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Which of the 3 types of friends are you most like? In what ways are you most like that type of friend? If you are not like any of them, take some time this week to ask people that know you best how you can grow in the area of being a godly friend.
2. Are you more concerned about finding friends or being a friend? How is that demonstrated? Which *should* be your priority and why?
3. What difficult circumstance in your life is God using to reveal His faithfulness to you? What is He being faithful to do in the midst of that circumstance (Hint: Read 1 Corinthians 10:13 and Romans 8:28-29)?
4. Without sharing any specifics or names with those at your table, are there any unresolved issues between you and a friend/family member right now? Read Matthew 5:23-24. What is this passage commanding you to do this week if that is the case? Will you commit right now to be obedient to God's command?
5. What character qualities do your friends or family possess that have greatly ministered to you? Take some time this week to tell them how much you appreciate their obedience to Christ in living out those qualities.
6. Who are your closest friends? Do they encourage and exhort you to become more Christ-like and point you to Scripture as often as possible? If not, prayerfully pursue friends who do. It may be necessary to lovingly and humbly tell your current friends that you cannot serve God with a clean conscience while talking about/doing the things that you have been doing with them.