

Community Group Discussion Questions

“Friendship, Part Two”

Proverbs 27:5-6, 25:20, 27:14, 19:6-7, 17:17, 20:6

Sermon Series Title: “The Church of God”

Sermon Series Summary: The Church of God is the people of God throughout the ages, redeemed by Jesus Christ. We’re going to take a look at who we are and who we are called to be as the church of God. More specifically, we see that who we are is directly connected to whose we are in Christ.

Passage Setting: Life is not black and white. It’s not about following a bunch of rules or accumulating knowledge. Wisdom requires discernment on applying the heart of God in all of life. King Solomon wrote the Proverbs in Scripture along with other books to provide such wisdom. This book covers all kinds of topics like money, speech, marriage, parenting, diligence, work, and friendship.

Summary: Our proverbs for today call us to be transparent, sensitive, and constant in our friendships. We need to give and receive honest rebuke from friends to be wise. We need to be sensitive to how we use our words and bear the burdens of others. We need to not be transactional in our friendships but love our friends for who they are. This is all perfectly found in Christ’s friendship with us, shown through the cross.

Central Truth: *“May we be transparent, sensitive, constant friends for one another as Christ was for us.”*

Sermon Points:

1. The Transparency of Friendship
2. The Sensitivity of Friendship
3. The Constancy of Friendship
4. The Ability for Friendship

Opening Question

1. What is the difference between a true friend and an acquaintance?

(Answers may vary.)

Community Group Discussion Questions

In my opinion from last week's sermon, a true friend is one that is accountable, intentional, and faithful. A true friend stays through both the good and bad times. A true friend is there even when he/she is not receiving anything back.

An acquaintance may call you a friend, but he/she will not be faithful. They will not truly understand and like you. They will not invest their time, energy, money, and emotions to love you.)

We are in our second of two Sundays, looking at friendship in Proverbs. King Solomon gives us wisdom on what friendship is and how to cultivate it.

Read Proverbs 27:5-6, 25:20, 27:14, 19:6-7, 17:17, 20:6.

2. What are some reflections for you as we looked at the call for transparency, sensitivity, and constancy in our friendships?

(Transparency- we are called to be open and vulnerable to give and to receive rebukes. We need outside opinions to sanctify us and to show us our strengths and weaknesses. Wounds from a friend are faithful, because they will sanctify, grow, and mature us. Someone who only flatters might as well be an enemy.

Sensitivity- There is a time for everything (for rebuke, mourning, weeping, rejoicing, etc.). We are called to weep with those who weep. We should not be joyful around someone who is mourning. We should always consider the time and the manner in which we bless. Maybe we have ill intentions if we are not doing it lovingly. We tie our hearts to one another in friendship, and we should know each other well enough to use our words wisely.

Constancy- Many of our relationships are transactional. We are "friends" with someone because of what we can receive. But a true friend is there at all times. He/she is available. A true friend not only talks the talk but walks the walk. They are few and far between, so we must really invest and cling to the ones that are faithful.)

3. How are these things true in Christ's friendship with us?

(Christ is the transparent friend who was open and vulnerable in his life to embrace the sinner, and He is open and vulnerable with us through His word, enough to die for us. He is the One who weeps with us. He understands us. He speaks wisely and sensitively. He is tied to our hearts, so much that in his worst hour of need, He still

Community Group Discussion Questions

considered it joy because HE would have us. He is the One who was not transactional with us. He did not need us at all. But He was the faithful friend who came to this earth to save us and be with us for eternity. He loves us for us.)

Final Thoughts: *We all long for such transparent, sensitive, and constant friends. Jesus is the perfect, faithful friend who will never leave us nor forsake us. He is the One who lived, died, and was raised back to life to love us forever. And after we've experienced His friendship, we are able to be that kind of friend to others.*