

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.

"We are in our "The Church of God" sermon series, and we see that we are defined not by who we are but whose we are as the Church."

Call: Luke 2:13-14

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

Title: "Friendship, Part Two"

Next Week's Call: Luke 2:29-32

Next Week's Text: Jeremiah 29:1-9

Next Week's Title: "The Outward Church"

Future Calls: Revelation 5:6-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14; Revelation 15:3, 4; Revelation 21:1-4, 5-7, 22-23

Future Titles: "Our Mission" (Luke 5:1-11), "Church as City" (Ephesians 2:19, Hebrews 13:14, Revelation 21:2), "Church as Body" (1 Corinthians 12:12-31), "Church as Family" (John 1:12-13), "Church as Bride" (Ephesians 5:22-33), "The Eternality of the Church" (Revelation 21:1-7)

Fallen Condition Focus: We don't have right friends.

Christ redeeming FCF: Christ is the perfect friend for us.

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

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.

Reflective Questions:

1. What are some reflections for you as we looked at the call for transparency, sensitivity, and constancy in our friendships?
2. How are these things true in Christ's friendship with us?

I. Introduction

- A. Hook- review of previous sermon (discovery, intentionality, accountability)
- B. Transition
- C. Proposition
- D. Points

II. The Transparency of Friendship (27:5-6)

- A. Going off the theme of accountability from last week, we are to be transparent in our friendships.
- B. We should be open and vulnerable to give and receive rebukes.
 1. We need to get outside opinions on our lives to sanctify us... to show us our strengths and weaknesses.
 2. Listening to a recording of our own voice.
- C. Hidden love is useless.
- D. Wounds from a friend are faithful.
 1. Friends sanctify us.
 2. All families have quirks, blindspots, and foolish tendencies. It's our friends who break us out of that.
 3. Home-school; boat around the world
- E. Profuse are the kisses of an enemy.
 1. If there is no rebuke or wound for growth, you may not have a friend but just a flatterer. They might as well be your enemy.
 2. Flight gone wrong

III. The Sensitivity of Friendship (25:20, 27:14)

- A. Taking off your own garment on a cold day is illogical. If you take off someone else's garment, you're just cruel and combative. Vinegar on soda produces a violent reaction, and they neutralize the other. That is what it's like to sing songs to a heavy heart.
 1. There is a time for everything (Ecclesiastes 3:4)
 2. Weep with those who weep (Romans 12:15)
 3. When you sing songs to a heavy heart or you try to force others to sing songs, you're emotionally disconnected and insensitive.

4. If you can be happy when your friends are hurting, you're not a true friend.
- B. Blessing a neighbor with a loud voice in the early morning is cursing.
 1. Even blessing at inappropriate times and manners does the opposite.
 2. Why so early in the morning? Why with a loud voice?
 3. Most likely, there are other motivations at play- gloating, boasting, envying, bothering, wanting the blessing from them
 - C. A friend knows the other person well enough to know what hurts or helps, what inspires or deflates, what energizes or irritates. Friends voluntarily tie their hearts to one another.
- IV. The Constancy of Friendship (19:6-7, 17:17, 20:6)
- A. Many seek favors from a generous man, and everyone is a friend to a man who gives gifts (Short lesson on generosity). Family and even more friends hate a poor man. His words are not enough.
 1. Our relationships are transactional- social, economic, emotional, physical
 - B. A brother is born for adversity, but they may not be around and love at all times like a friend.
 1. Constancy means availability.
 - C. Many talk the talk (steadfast love- chesed), but the faithful man actually walks the walk. A faithful man, who can find? It's hard to find one faithful man.
 1. Constancy means integrity.
 - D. Instead of a transactional relationship, friends are faithful in their words, deeds, and relationship, no matter the circumstance. A friend loves the other not for some other gain but just because the friend cherishes the other.
- V. The Ability for Friendship
- A. We can be this kind of friend, because we have a friend who has loved us in this way.
 - B. He became vulnerable (Christmas), coming in weakness and dying for our sin and shame.
 - C. He is the One who took on the ultimate wounds for our sin and saves us.
 - D. He is transparent Himself and speaks truth in grace to us.
 - E. He is the One who is tied to our heart so much that even in His worst suffering, He considered it joy, bringing salvation to us. He sympathizes with our weaknesses, and loves us.
 1. He is the Sensitive One, and He weeps with and for us. John 11- Mary and Martha, weeping.

2. "Our sin causes him pain (Genesis 6:6), and our broken hearts draw him to our side (Psalm 34:18). He loves us more tenderly and sensitively than a nursing mother does her child (Isaiah 49:15)." -Tim Keller
- F. Jesus is the constant friend for us who is always there for us till eternity. He will never leave us nor forsake us.
1. We were the ones poor in our sin and He was the One rich in heaven, and yet He became poor for us.
 2. We brought nothing to the table and he brought everything to the table. And He did it, because He cherished us. He wanted us.
- G. He not only spoke steadfast chesed love, but He lived and died for it.
- H. A truly, faithful man is not hard to find. It's IMPOSSIBLE. But there is one man who was that faithful man. And he lived and died to save us.