

Best Friends Fellowship (BFF)
September 16, 2012

Faithful Friends

Proverbs 12:26 – The righteous should choose his friends carefully, for the way of the wicked leads them astray.

What are the major obstacles we have when it comes to developing deeper friendships?

I. Foolish Friends

Proverbs 27:22 –

Proverbs 1:7-

Proverbs 22:3 –

Proverbs 13:20-

II. Levels of Friendship

Contact Friends (Acquaintance) – people you pass on a daily or regular basis whom you know well enough to speak to but not well enough to call a close friend

Casual Friends – people you know well enough to have personal conversations with about matters of common interests, activities, concerns

Close Friends – people you talk with regularly and with whom you share common goals and values in life (mutual life goals)

Committed Friends (Intimate Friendship) – friends who love you enough to confront you when you are wrong and to stand by you through thick and thin – for better or worse – committed to the development of each others' character, to each others' highest good, regardless of personal cost – take mutual responsibility to keep the relationship on track and growing – takes time and effort to know each other – trust them with our secrets, our weaknesses and failures, our hopes and dreams.

As you grow older, do you find it easier or more difficult to develop intimate friendships? Why?

III. Faithful Friends

Proverbs 27:6

Romans 15:2

Ephesians 4:2

Proverbs 9:8

Proverbs 27:17

Psalms 15:3

Proverbs 17:17

John 15:13

Romans 16:4

2 Timothy 1:16

IV. Questions to Discuss

Read the following verses and describe what they tell us about love and friendship:

I John 2:9-11

I John 3:10-18

I John 4:7-8, 20

Read the following verses and see how many negative definitions of love you can find and how that relates to the positive in our friendships

Romans 13:8-10

I Corinthians 13:4-8

V. To think about

Are you satisfied with the quality of your current friendships? If so, what will it take to maintain those relationships at that level? If you are not satisfied, what do you think it would take to make friendships grow deeper?