

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements

Mark Davis

Song Leader

Jack Calvert

Lord's Supper

Jon Barry Rodney Ellis
Pete Rowland Bill Brittenham

Prayers

Hunter Byrd Cole Meador

SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements

Mark Davis

Scripture Reading

Clay Morris

Song Leader

Hayden Ellis

Lord's Supper

Hunter Byrd Pete Rowland

Prayers

Bryan Garlock Wendell Mobley

WEDNESDAY

Announcements

Cole Meador

Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

Prayers

Rodney Ellis Joseph Barry

Invitation

Gerald Eaton

ABOUT US

Elders

Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis

Deacons

Jon Barry Bill Brittenham
Mike Davis Clay Morris

Evangelist

Bryan Garlock

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

Bible Study9:30 A.M.
Worship10:15 A.M.
Worship6:00 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study7:00 P.M.

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GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION

Hear the word of truth Romans 10:13-17

Believe the truth..... Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24

Repent from all sins Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38

Confess the name of Christ ... Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

Be Baptized in His name Mark 16:16;
1 Peter 3:21; Colossians 2:12

Walk in newness of life and **be faithful** unto death Romans 6:1-4; Revelation 2:10

Think On These Things

Franklin Drive Church of Christ

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Issue 10

Wisdom about Friendships

Bryan Garlock

We all enjoy companionship and camaraderie. We can know that God did not wish for man to be alone since He created man and woman for each other's company and mutual help. Let us consider, then, the teachings in Proverbs that help guide us in our friendships.

Interestingly, before there is any positive teaching on friendships, the Proverbs warn against becoming friends with those who are bent on doing evil (1.10-19; cf. 4.14-19; 28.7). Thus, "One who is righteous is a guide to his neighbor, but the way of the wicked leads them astray" (12.26) and "Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm" (13.20). Finally, "Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man, lest you learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare." (22.24-25)

As we work our way through these verses on relationships, remember that the book of Proverbs has many absolute,

general, and obvious truths. They are not necessarily strict promises nor universally true; however, they are God's sound wisdom on how to live in an unsound world. For example, while "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity" (17.17) is a true statement, sometimes friends do not love us but mistreat us. Some friends are conditional friends: "...the rich has many friends." (14.20) Thus, we are left to wonder how many "friends" the prodigal son had who loved him while his money was available (Luke 15.11-24; Prov. 19.4, 6-7). Fortunately, "...there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." (18.24; 27.10)

Some have the wrong concept of what true friendship looks like. A true friend will not pat you on the back while you continue to harm yourself whether physically and/or spiritually. "Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are

FAMILY TALK

Continue to remember and check on our shut-ins: **Willie Margaret Mobley, Bob Buls, Bonnie Allgor, Lahron McJunkins, Maxine Burnham, and Francine Davis.** Cards, calls and visits are ALWAYS needed and appreciated.

We are saddened by the death of **Nancy Rowe's** brother, **Johnny Walker**, and our prayers are with her and her family.

The next **Ladies Bible** Class will be Tuesday, **Mar. 12th**. The morning class will be at **Tyna Armstrong's** at 11:30 and the evening at **Karen Calvert's** at 6:00.

Our Gospel Meeting: Singing, March 29th and **Meeting** with Tim Stevens, March 31st-April 3rd.

Please pick up some invite cards and ask for Bible studies. See Bryan if you need any help with home studies.

Gal. 6:14 *But far be it from me to glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world hath been crucified unto me, and I unto the world.*

To Paul, the cross of Jesus Christ was an escape from the sinful world and an escape from his own sinful self. He found safety in Jesus as well as the salvation of his soul and his reconciliation to the Father.
Are you safe in Jesus?

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the kisses of an enemy" (27.5-6; 28.23) and "Oil and perfume make the heart glad, and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel." (27.9) Someone once said, "A true friend stabs you in the front." Sometimes friends must say some hard things; it would do us well to learn to listen to those hard things.

One way to be a considerate friend is to refrain from sinful attitudes and actions that would harm the relationship. For example, "Whoever covers an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends." (17.9; cf. 16.28) God hates when we sow discord by gossip (6.19) and while the consequences are eternal, repeating someone's business destroys the peace between two people, making for a miserable life. Thus, those who were once joined together by common interests and enjoyed each other's company may go a lifetime never speaking again. Fortunately, "For lack of wood the fire goes out, and where there is no whisperer, quarreling ceases." (26.20)

There are many other Proverbs that help us maintain a caring and healthy relationship with others. "Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses." (10.12) "Whoever belittles his neighbor lacks sense, but a man of understanding remains silent. Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a thing covered." (11.12-13) "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." (15.1) "A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger quiets contention." (15.8) "The beginning of strife is like letting out water, so quit before the quarrel breaks out." (17.14) "If one gives

an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame." (18.13) "Let your foot be seldom in your neighbor's house, lest he have his fill of you and hate you." (25.17) "Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death is the man who deceives his neighbor and says, 'I am only joking!'" (26.18-19) "A lying tongue hates its victims, and a flattering mouth works ruin." (26.28) "Do not forsake your friend and your father's friend, and do not go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity. Better is a neighbor who is near than a brother who is far away." (27.10) "Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another." (27.17) "Whoever rebukes a man will afterward find more favor than he who flatters with his tongue." (28.23) The book is full of many more proverbs that help us be wise in our friendships; take the time to study and internalize these words.

Want to make a friend? "Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and let not your heart be glad when he stumbles, lest the Lord see it and be displeased, and turn away his anger from him." (24.17-18) and "If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink, for you will heap burning coals on his head, and the Lord will reward you." (25.21-22)

Friendships flourish when both parties practice love, wisdom, compassion, and integrity. This is how our friend Jesus treats us. He taught, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." (John 15.13) Friendship brings sweet fellowship, peace, warmth, security, comfort, and support (Eccl. 4.9-12). This is truly manifested

within the design of the local church, within the family, and between two individuals who love and cherish one another (1 Sam. 18.1-4). Your friend, BG

Encouraging Each Other

Joseph Barry

There is plenty of things we could encourage each other about. Look at Colossians 3:16 and Ephesians 5:19. These verses show that one of the ways we can encourage one another is by singing hymns. One of the things to encourage each other about is to stay faithful to the Lord, and another is to be hospitable. One of the big things we miss in encouraging each other is to spread the Gospel more. It is a big issue that I think we are too afraid to touch on and do, as well.

One reason why we are so scared to touch on it is that we do not want to offend anyone. While it is not our goal to offend, if they get offended by what the Bible says, that is their problem. Jesus said that He did not come "to bring peace, but a sword" (Matthew 10:34) and the writer of Hebrews says that the Word of God "is sharper than any two-edged sword" and discerns "the thoughts and intentions of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12) Some people do not respond well to the Truth.

In two of the Gospel accounts, Matthew and Mark have recorded that Jesus told the apostles to go and spread the Good News. This applies to us. Even though we are not the apostles, we are still God's followers. It is on our shoulders to bring others to Christ.