

Lost in Translation (Friendship)

Question: Do you have friends? – A story of a Pastors conference

The worlds definition

- A. You keep secrets no matter what –you keep a confidence
- B. You back me no matter what –loyalty
- C. You affirm me no matter what I do – that is unconditional love
- D. Friendship is having fun

The result; Because of wrong definitions and painful experiences people isolate

- Because relationships are painful and hard you make other things more important
- Isolation (without friends) can happen intentionally or unintentionally
 - Living an isolated life is a choice, being walled off is a choice to be alone
 - Too busy to actually live out friendship
 - We have to make choices to have the kinds of relationships God wants us to have

So many Christians (leaders) lead friendless lives—they're lonely

- This is not Gods will for us – we were created for relationship with God and others (Matthew 22:37-40)
- Friendship is getting harder to find – love grows cold -Mt 24:12
- Some justify it – “I am too busy”
- Some redefine it so it sounds like they do but they truly don't

Gods desire is to rebuild what was broken –His Word, His Holy Spirit, His people

- God gave us a way to recover what we were born for
- What does a friend look like?
- I can become one, I can recognize one, and I can disciple into becoming one
- Hardwired to Connect

1 John 1:6–7 (NIV), Ecclesiastes 4:7–12 (NIV)

1. Being alone is not Gods idea

Genesis 2:18 (NIV), Proverbs 18:1 (NASB95), Psalm 68:6 (NASB95)

2. Let's look at what friendship looks like

- A. You work together – for a better return –
 - A good friend helps us be good – do good – a better return
 - The best is what we bring up together

Proverbs 13:20 (NIV), Psalm 141:5 (NIV)

- B. A good friend is there when you fall/struggle
- C. A good friend stands with you in the cold –the dark night of the soul
 - Intimacy – honesty –coldness to warmth
- D. A good friend is there in the fight – even if the fight is against us
 - I know I have a good friend when there is a fight and we fight for relationship

Proverbs 17:17 (NIV), Proverbs 27:6 (NIV)

E. A cord of three strands – a spiritual family that strengthens one another

3. Assumed truths found in this passage

A. He lays out here what a friend is – there are good friends and bad friends and they can impact your life

1 Corinthians 15:33 (NASB95), Proverbs 18:24 (NIV), Proverbs 12:26 (NIV)

B. *Being* a friend sets the stage for friendship

- Who is my neighbor? Jesus says be a neighbor (Luke 10:29)
- Discipleship and friendship

C. Proximity is assumed --People know you and you know them – when someone falls or is under attack

- James 5:16, Acts 2:42-47, Hebrews 3:12-13, Galatians 6:2
- Being honest -- reaching out versus withholding truth about how you are really doing

D. A good friend is not a perfect friend –humility and forgiveness is required. **Proverbs 10:12 (NIV)**

Back to the question—do you have friends?

Are you this kind of friend? Do you have this kind of friend(s)? If not, why not?

- Is your life too busy? Misplaced priorities?
- Am I too idealistic?
- Am I too self-centered?
- Have I hardened my heart because of past pain?

A growing Christian is growing in relational depth with others

Resources – Relationship, The Power of Together

Small Group Questions

<https://bit.ly/GroupDiscussionQuestions>



The Overtime Podcast

bit.ly/RLovertime



Series Resources

bit.ly/RLcurrentseries