

Friendship - Seminar 1 / The Single's Scene

1) - Levels of Friendship

Goal: To explain the levels of friendship so that we might have reasonable expectations of one another.

The various levels of friendship will be examined in light of Jesus' various human relationships.

The capacity for friendship at each level will vary from person to person. Some people can handle many more friends than others and some much less.

People can move up or down the scale according to mutual interest in a more personal relationship.

The Multitudes -

Jesus

Characteristics:

Examples:

Capacity:

Acquaintance -

Jesus

Characteristics:

Examples:

Capacity:

Casual Friend - Better known than an acquaintance with more frequent contact

Jesus

Characteristics:

Examples:

Capacity:

Close Friends. There are several types

Close Associates -

Close Personal Friends -

Mentor Relationships -

Jesus

Characteristics:

Examples:

Capacity:

Intimate Friends -

Jesus

Characteristics:

Examples:

Capacity:

Thought Provokers:

List out some friends in each category. Why did you place that friend in that category?

Is it wrong to consider someone to be in a lower category of friendship than they might consider you? (They consider you an intimate friend, but you consider them a close friend, etc.) Explain.

How might you deal with someone who is hurt because your friendship with them is not as deep as they want? What if it was the opposite - they do not want as deep a friendship as you?

Dangers in Isolation or Inundation

The Foolishness of Isolation

Reasons for Isolation:

Pain

Expediency

Pride

The Danger of Inundation

Developing Friendships

Influencing, not influenced

People to Avoid as Close or Intimate Friends

Sinners - Proverbs 1:8-19

The Wicked and the Evil - Proverbs 4:14-19

The Immoral Woman - Proverbs 5, 6, 7

The fool - Proverbs 14:7

The Hot tempered man - Proverbs 22:24-25

The Gossip - Proverbs 20:19

Characteristics of Godliness for Close and Intimate Friends

Being a Godly Friend

Humility

Love

Loyalty

Confidentiality

Honesty

Resources:

Friends & Friendship, by White, Jerry & Mary, NavPress, 1982
https://gracebibleny.org/proverbs_friendship_part_1