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Friendship

This month we will discuss what friendship means, what it looks like and how we can grow in our friendship with God and others. With that being said, what does it mean to be a friend? Take a few minutes to discuss and write down key factors.

The bible says, “greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends” (John 15:13). How many of us can say we have a friend characterized by these words? How many of us can say we are a friend like that? The truth is, friendship with others takes a lot of grace, support, love and a willingness to self-reflect and perhaps change. Can you think of a time that you sacrificed your time, comfort, or pride to be a friend to someone else? Can you share?

The truth is God has called us to be in communion with other people. The Church was built so that we could love God and love others. The Bible says, “Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm for God can be trusted to keep His promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Does your friendship with others look like this? Is the goal of your friendship to uplift and encourage others to pursue Christ and acts of love? Can you describe a time when you were challenged to become a better friend?

Jesus has called us to be His friend. He has already made the sacrifice mentioned in John 15:13. Jesus the King of the World wants to have an intimate and loving friendship with us. Like all friendship this desire must be reciprocated, it isn't enough that He chooses us, we too have to choose Him. When you chose God to be the Lord of your life, you also chose to be His friend. “You are my friends, if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything I have learned from my Father I have made known to you” (John 15:14-15). So what does this relationship look like in your life? Or what do you desire it to look like?

Often times we look to humans, our friendships on earth, to fulfill the needs or desires that only God can meet. True friendship should come with a level of love, sacrifice, grace, and time however, not at the level of dependency, because Jesus in His perfect love has given us all of those things. He calls us worthy, royalty, wonderful, He calls us to quality time with Him, He saves us with an outstretched arm, He physically died for us so that we can live with Him for eternity, and He has given us gifts to have a prosperous life here on earth serving His kingdom. So to be a good friend to others here on earth we must first be a good friend to God. Our relationship with others should always mirror our relationship with Jesus.

Take a moment to reflect on this study. Is there anything you want to share with the group? Anything you learned or would like to grow in moving forward?

Below are additional verses on friendship with God and man. This week commit to reading these verses daily and asking God how you can grow in your relationship with Christ and others.

A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother. (Proverbs 18:24).

The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear Him, and He makes known to them his covenant (Psalm 25:14).

Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another (Proverbs 27:17).

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2).

And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved (Acts 2:44-47).