

1 friending

FRIENDING, PART 1: THE FOUNDATION OF FRIENDSHIPS

Friendships are powerful things. They're great, but dangerous. You drop your guard with your friends. You become less careful. And as a result, you're easily influenced, drawn toward the acceptance you find. Many of us don't realize the importance of the people we choose to surround ourselves with. Our friends determine the quality and direction of our lives.

BIG IDEA: Show me your friends and I'll show you your future.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How has social media impacted your friendships for better or for worse?
2. Do you have the right friends? Do you feel you are getting adequate time with those friends?
3. How present are you in your friendships? How transparent are you? If there is one of these things you need to work on, what is it and what are you going to do about it?
4. *With your Bible or your Bible App, read and discuss Proverbs 13:20,*
He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm. Proverbs 13:20
5. What is the promise to those who "walk" with the wise?
6. What is the consequence of being a companion of fools?

Those were the easy questions. Think about this one.

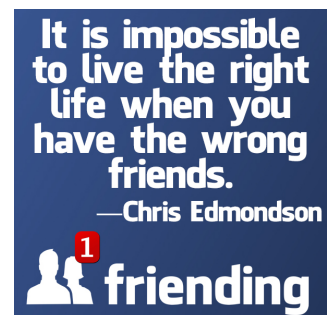
7. Based on your experiences, why do you think Solomon highlights what a person *becomes* (i.e., "wise") in the first half of the verse, while he highlights what will *happen* (i.e., "suffering harm") in the second half?
8. Why didn't he say, "He who walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools becomes a fool"?
9. *With your Bible or your Bible App, read and discuss Proverbs 17:17.*
A friend loves at all times (or is always loyal), and a brother is born to help in time of need. Proverbs 17:17
10. Chris mentioned that, "In this disposable age we live in, loyalty is a lost art." Do you agree or disagree? Why or Why not? How can you be a more loyal friend?

In the message, Chris mentioned 4 reasons why friendships are declining: 1) increasing work hours, 2) Rising Divorce Rates, 3) We move more often, and 4) Social media smart phones and texting.

11. Which one of these 4 factors keeps you from experiencing true friendships?
12. *With your Bible or your Bible App, read and discuss Hebrews 10:24-25.*

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 is drawing near. Hebrews 10:24-25

13. Friendships form *Face to Face* not *Thumbs to Thumbs*. Are you substituting showing up face to face for a pseudo-friendship?
14. What are some other things that keep you from having truly authentic friendships?
15. Chris said, "Show me your friends and I'll show you your future." How have you experienced this truth in your life?
16. What weaknesses do you struggle with most? How could your Small Group and your friends help you in dealing with these weaknesses?





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At the end of his message, Chris restated the Big Idea this way: “Your friends will determine the direction and quality of your life.”

17. Was that true for you when you were in school?
18. Is it still true or *as true* for you now that you are in a different stage of life?

THINK ABOUT IT

Do any of these sound familiar when it comes to your friendships?

- It dawns on you that your core friends aren’t moving in the direction you want your life to be moving.
- You catch yourself pretending to be someone other than who you really are.
- You feel pressure to compromise.
- You hear yourself saying, “I’ll go, but I won’t participate.”
- You hope the people you care about most don’t find out where you’ve been or whom you’ve been with.

Constructing the necessary guardrails in a relationship/friendship is painful. But being intentional about walking with the wise protects you and puts you in a position to help others later on.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Chris asked you to list your six closest friends during the message. Of those six friends, which one would you classify as your closest friend? How has their friendship benefited your life? What’s one thing you can do this week that will help you be more present or more transparent with your friends?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm. Proverbs 13:20 (NIV)

