



SUNDAY EVENING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: The Discipline of Friendship

Passage: Proverbs 27:17

Speaker: Associate Pastor David Wood

Introduction: Having and maintaining meaningful, edifying friendships is no small task. It requires selflessness, time, effort, and a lot of intentionality. It involves careful consideration, communication, and self-control. While it costs a lot, there is nothing more rewarding in this life than cultivating deep, authentic relationships. Tonight we will look at what it looks like to have disciplined friendships.

“Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2

I. Receive Friendship

We need to be sharpened. It's pointless to live our lives trying to impress everyone with how shiny our dull blade is.

We need to spend time with those that are wiser, have more experience, aren't afraid to ask us hard questions, and keep us accountable.

Find someone that's going knock off the rough edges and make seeking Godly counsel a regular part of your life.

II. Give Friendship

Make time to sharpen and invest in your friends.



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“That repetitious action will have created a groove in the soul, otherwise known as character.” - Sam Davison

Here are a few ways to help with the discipline of friendship:

- Schedule time to communicate with your friends every week.
- Stay informed about what's going on in their life.
- Pray for them regularly and specifically.
- Allow them to keep you accountable and do the same for them.
- Take time when needed to invest in them.
- Learning to prioritize relationships.

Conclusion: The discipline of friendship is not something that happens by chance, but through intentional effort and consistency. Just as a blade needs regular sharpening to stay effective, our relationships require time, care, and commitment to flourish. Remember, we are called to be there for each other, supporting one another as we walk through life. With God's guidance, our friendships can become powerful tools for creating the impact He desires in the world. Let's embrace the opportunity to build and strengthen our bonds, knowing that in doing so, we honor both God and the people He has placed in our lives.



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