

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

The Gift of Friendship

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
March 27, 2022



What does true friendship look like and how do we become a true friend?

- **True friends are loyal.**

Proverbs 20:6 (NLT) "Many will say they are loyal friends, but who can find one who is truly reliable?"

- **True friends show up in times of need.**

Proverbs 17:17 (NLT) "A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need."

Proverbs 27:10 (NLT) "Never abandon a friend—either yours or your father's. When disaster strikes, you won't have to ask your brother for assistance. It's better to go to a neighbour than to a brother who lives far away."

- **True friends speak the truth in love.**

Proverbs 27:6 (NLT) "Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy."

Proverbs 27:9 (NLT) "The heartfelt counsel of a friend is as sweet as perfume and incense."

Ephesians 4:14-16 (NLT) Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth.¹⁵ **Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.** ¹⁶ He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love."

- **True friends make you better and more like Jesus.**

Proverbs 27:17 (NLT) "As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend."

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (MSG) "So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love. Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, doesn't have a swelled head, doesn't force itself on others, isn't always 'me first,' doesn't fly off the handle, doesn't keep score of the sins of others, doesn't revel when others grovel, takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end. Love never dies."

Romans 5:8-11 (NLT) "But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. ⁹ And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation.¹⁰ For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. ¹¹ So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God."

- **Jesus was forsaken so I can become a friend of God.**

Proverbs 18:24 (NIV) "One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."

Big Idea: Seeking true friendship with God will make you a true friend to others.



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
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Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

The Gift of Friendship
#12 of 12 - March 27, 2022

- 1) Last week we looked at the issue of dealing with pride in our life. What has God been impressing on your heart as it relates to trusting Him in this area. How did it go with your action step? Where have you seen God working?
- 2) Take time to have one person explain and the practice the 3 Circles Gospel Presentation or share their testimony.
- 3) Read Proverbs 20:6, 17:17, 27:10, 27:6, 27:9, 27:17. What is the **Context** for these passages? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What's the theme of this chapter, or passage? What's the historical and cultural context?
- 4) **Observation:** What "jumps out" in these passages? What interesting details do you observe about friendship? What questions come up about the passages?
- 5) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in these passages for us and what does this tell us about God's design for friendship?
- 6) Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 and Romans 5:8-11. What does this reveal about Jesus as our "ultimate friend"? How does this encourage you today?
- 7) **Application:** How is God speaking to you through these verses and through this message? (Take some time for Listening Prayer). How do these verses call on you to change the way you live?
- 8) What steps will you take to seek true friendship with God? What steps will you take to grow into a better friend for others? What aspect of this teaching do you need to pass on to others?



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