

A NEW DAY - In Friendship

Icebreaker: Who would you consider your best friend? What makes them so?

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.
(John 15:15)

As a friend of God, the Easter season invites me to 5 "new-day" commitments...

- **Stand in grace, not guilt (identity)** – “He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.” (Rom. 4:25-5:2a) – Where do you fall short/have fallen short? With that thought, do you have more “I’m standing in grace” or “standing in guilt” mentality? If “standing in guilt” why do you think this permeates your identity?
- **Walk by faith, not fear (trust)** – “Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, His body...let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith.” (Heb. 10:19-22) – What represents more of your motivation to serve/follow God, a sense of faith or fear? If fear, why is this true?
- **Follow His will, not my ways (obedience)** – “This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.” (Heb. 10:16) – On a scale of 1-10, how well do you know God’s will for your life? What is one area in which you are reluctant to follow God’s will?
- **Share His story, not mine (purpose)** – “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8) – In any given conversation, how apt are you to talk about yourself? How apt are you talk about God? What would it take to talk less about yourself and more about God?
- **Grow together, not alone (community)** – “For through Him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone. In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.” (Eph. 2:18-21) – How dependent are you on God’s Body of Believers for your growth and development?

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!
(2 Cor. 5:17) – In what area of life do you need to turn over a new day with God?