

Making Christ Known to Your Friends

Proverbs 27:5-10

Introduction:

“A true friend is not someone we have chosen for ourselves, but rather someone God has placed in our lives for a purpose.”

- Jerry Vines

I. When making Christ known, it is good to compare our friendships.

A. When comparing friends, we will discover cautious friends.

Open rebuke is better than secret love. Proverbs 27:5

B. When comparing friends, we will discover courageous friends.

Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful. Proverbs 27:6

Jesus a friend to Nicodemus; *Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. John 3:7*

“Trust in the foundation of all successful relationships. At times, a friend may wound with constructive criticism. The short-term pain is for long-term good.”

- David Jeremiah

II. When making Christ known, it is good to cultivate friendships.

A. When cultivating friends, it's good to prove your friendship.

The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet. Proverbs 27:7

- ◆ The first point here is about appetite. Are your friends so full of the world they have no appetite for the godly? *Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*
Matthew 5:6
- ◆ The second point here is about contentment. Are they content to be satisfied in Godly things? *But godliness with contentment is great gain. . 1 Timothy 6:6*

B. When cultivating friends, it's good to protect your friendship.

As a bird that wandereth from her nest, so is a man that wandereth from his place. Proverbs 27:8

Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Revelation 2:4

III. When making Christ known, it is good to confirm friendship.

A. We confirm our friendship with the right climate.

Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel.
Proverbs 27:9

*“Hearty counsel—counsel that comes from the heart—has a fragrance all its own.
It is genuine and its rarity and worth is recognizable.”*

- John Phillips

B. We confirm our friendship with the right commitment.

Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not; neither go into thy brother's house in the day of thy calamity: for better is a neighbour that is near than a brother far off. Proverbs 27:10