

LIFE GROUP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Get Closer November 24, 2024

Summary

The final sermon in this series emphasizes the value Jesus places on friendship, urging us to reflect His love by befriending others in a Christ-like way. Drawing from 1 John 2, Pastor Kyle highlights three tests of friendship with Jesus: obedience to His commands, living as He lived and loving others as He loves us. True love, as defined by God, is sacrificial, truthful and transformative, not merely a feeling. To grow in Christian friendship, we need to prioritize relationships by praying for guidance, focusing on a few deep friendships, using wisdom in selecting friends and being patient as those bonds grow.

Scripture

Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD. Leviticus 19:18 (NIV)

Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses. Proverbs 27:5-6 (NIV)

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” John 13:34 (NIV)

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. 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. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other. John 15:9-17 (NIV)

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NIV)

We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did. Dear friends, I am not writing

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you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining. Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.
1 John 2:3-11 (NIV)

Let's Start

What is one quality you value most in a true friend, and why?

Gratitude and Prayer

How has God worked in your life since we were together?

Let's Talk

1. What does it mean to be a friend of Jesus according to 1 John 2?
2. How does God's definition of love differ from society's definition of love?
3. Who has shown you Christ-like love recently, and how did it impact you?
4. Pastor Kyle talked about ways we can deepen Christian friendship in our lives:
 - Be prayerful.
 - Be practical.
 - Be prudent.
 - Be patient.

What steps can you take to deepen a friendship with a fellow believer this week?

5. How does proximity (being close to others) help us better reflect Jesus' love in our relationships?

Let's Act

How can you show love to a friend this week?

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