

Being a True Friend

26 June 2008

There are two needs that people in the world need...

1. To meet the needs of loneliness.
2. Able to meet true friends.

People in the world are looking for true friends.

The cure for the above need is evangelism. However to Christians, the word "evangelism" may scare other people. But another way of using that word is simply **Being a True Friend**.

You got to understand one thing – true friendship are never accidentally. They are planned and developed over a period of time.

Love is never naturally. Love is a choice. Means it is an activation of love. You choose to love and choose to be a friend.

People may say Christians are fake. Only being nice to others in church. However there are acts of love. And when Christians show acts of love in people's life, that is a choice, not a fake.

Most effective evangelism is often one-to-one. That is being heart-to-heart with the friend. But before you can reach that level, you need to understand what it means by being a true friend.

There are basically two different kinds of friends in your life you will meet.

1. **Causal Friends**
2. **Close Friends**

Causal friends are the result of circumstances – school, clubs, games, work, church, etc.

Close friends are the results of choice. You cannot be close friend with everybody.

There may be just about three to five best friends in your life. So you have to be selective.

(Proverbs 12:26) The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray.

If you think you are righteous, you better choose your friends wisely! If not the wicked can lead them astray.

5 kinds of people you need to avoid as close friends.

1. **Lazy People**

(**Proverbs 15:19**) The way of the lazy man is like a hedge of thorns, But the way of the upright is a highway.

2. Angry People

(**Ecclesiastes 7:9**) Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry, For anger rests in the bosom of fools.

3. Immoral People

(**1 Corinthians 5:9**) I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people.

4. Greedy People

Read **Proverbs 1:10-19**.

5. Unbelievers

(**2 Corinthians 6:14**) Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

No! Do not reject them! Just do not make them your close friends.

Close friends have access into your heart. And when they have access in your heart, they have the authority to change your value, affect your principles and change you. They have the right to come in and influence. Because you have given them authority. Just like Christian gave God the authority to come into your heart when they accepted Christ.

So what should you look for in a close friend?

1. Look for those who will help you to be wise.

(**Proverbs 13:20**) He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed.

So you want to be wise, you got to mix with wise friends! It is hard to be stupid when you are always around the smart people. It is hard to be sad when the person is full of joy.

Does your friend help you and bring out the best in your life? Find friends that will challenge the way you think in your life positively.

"If you are smartest the one in your group, it is time to find a new group." – Dr. A.R. Bernard

Only then you will grow!

2. Look for those who will share your burden.

(Galatians 6:2) Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

The Bible called us to bear one another's burdens.

An acquaintance can be a burden but not a friend. Because a friend in need is a friend indeed.

Find a friend that can be counted on in crisis. When others let you down, these good friends are those who will support you.

3. Look for those who will help you to grow spiritual.

(Hebrews 10:24) And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,

(Hebrews 10:25) not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

All of us need spiritual encouragement. Friends who will pray with you in times of need and not cause you to stray away from God. The kind of friends to direct you correctly.

Pursue friendship with people who know God. Not just knowing who God is but that they have a strong relationship with God.

If you want to fulfil the will of God in your life, always encompasses a strong spiritual mentor friend.

Soul-winning must be relational.

Win them over as friends first then win them to Jesus. And ultimately they will find that Jesus is their best friend.

Conclusion...

You may read the sermon notes above as one of the following or both...

Are you someone who wants to be a true friend?

Or you are who wants to learn to be a true friend with people out in the world and in the people in the realm of God that God has placed in your life?

True friends are those who always want to see you happy and they will help you to realise your fullest potential!

If you are a Christian, Evangelism is what you are saved for. The moment you stop trying to evangelise, then what are you living on this earth for? Have the heart and mind of Jesus Christ.

(Philippians 2:6) who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

(Philippians 2:7) but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

(Philippians 2:8) And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

That is the kind of friend you have in God. A friend who humbled Himself and died for you on the cross.

Sermon taken from <http://www.bryanchung.sg>
