



SUN GROVE CHURCH

"Assembly Required – Healthy Friendships " - Week 5

(John 15)

- The people you let close in your life can often be a great spiritual asset.
- Proverbs 27:17
- Our return on friendships is often based on our investment in friendships.
- Connection is part of the DNA of what it means to be human.
- The very first problem for humankind in Genesis wasn't sin!
- Genesis 2:18

Healthy Friendships Are Championed by Jesus

- Jesus' close circle became His confidants, friends, and partners in His mission.
- Jesus' choice of closest friendships wasn't based on perfection or status.
- John 15:9-17

Healthy Friendships Show Obedience to God

- Obedience to His command to "love one another" marks us as His friend.
- God makes real community central to the Christ-following faith.

Healthy Friendships Are Inviting

- So many of us are more of "waiting" people than an "inviting" people.
- Jesus said, "You are my friends" and "You did not choose me, but I chose you."
- Proverbs 18:24
- Are you friendly to others?
- How do you come off to people you meet?
- What does your face say? Wouldn't hurt to smile once in a while.

Healthy Friendships Requires Sacrifices

- John 15:13
- So many approach friendships only as a "consumer."



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- What if instead of being just consumers, we approached friendship also from the perspective of being a contributor?
- How could we elevate the other person?
- How could we encourage the other person?
- Building true friendship almost always involves going beyond convenience or comfort.
- The cross of Jesus IS an act of substitutionary atonement, where Jesus took the punishment of sin in our place. And, the cross is also, very personally, a relational act of invitation into friendship with God.

Healthy People Stay Healthy to Love & Serve

- We are not to go around running away from people who are unhealthy.
- We are to be on mission in this world and helping people take their next steps toward Christ.
- We also need to stay spiritually healthy to love those around us.
- Do your closest relationships give you energy?
- 2 Timothy 2:16-17
- Proverbs 18:24

Healthy People Watch Out for the Constantly Negative

- Proverbs 17:20
- Do not give "prime real estate" in your heart to criticism, gossiping, or complaining.

Healthy People Watch Out for Opponents to Spiritual Health

- Do you get sucked into negative behavior.
- Are there things that drawn away from living God's calling?

Healthy People Watch Out for Consistent Boundary Breaking

- While in flesh, Jesus loved everyone equally, but He did not bring everyone equally close.
- He recruited 12 people to be His disciples, not hundreds.
- Matthew 16:23
- There may be times when you need to calmly say, "I won't let you talk to me or treat me that way."
- There may be times when you need to calmly say, "I am not going there with you."
- Cutting someone out of a relationship should be a rare thing for a Christian to do.