

Sermon Notes Sunday 17th March 'Becoming wise in Friendships'

- What would you say was the most important quality in being a friend?
- Share an occasion when you really valued having a particular friend.

1. CAUTIOUS. To be relationally wise we need to be cautious in our choice of friends. Why? (Prov. 12:26, 22:24).

- To what extent can a person be influenced by the behaviour and values of a friend?
- How can parents help their children to make wise choices as to who they spend time with? (Prov 13:20)
- Share your experiences of good/bad choices.

'Whether we are helped or hurt will to a large extent depend on our choice of friends'. Do you agree with this statement?

Read:1 Sam 23:13-18. The friendship between David and Jonathan is held up as something special. What does this passage teach us about having friends who encourage us in faith? (Prov. 27:17).

2. COMMITMENT. Friendship requires commitment (Prov. 17:17, 18:24).

- What do we see of this commitment in the friendship of David and Jonathan?
- Have you ever been disappointed by a 'Fair-weather friend'?
- Have you known the cost of commitment when you have stood by a true friend no matter what? How did it feel?

3. CORRECTION. Friendship requires correction (Prov. 27:5,6, 24:26).

'You only correct and restore what is valuable'.

- How difficult is it to give 'friendly wounds' to a friend and confront them with something that needs addressing? Share your experiences.

Prov. 17:9. We are not taught in school how to repair, restore and maintain friendships.

- What are the difficulties we face in restoring damaged friendships?

4. CHRIST'S RESOURCES. Wise friendships require Christ's resources (Jn 15:15)
What difference does it make to have Jesus as our friend?

Read Job 29:4 where Job longs for former times 'when God's intimate friendship blessed my house'. I wonder if we can remember former times when our friendship with God was real, sparkling and vibrant?

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit of God will renew in each of us a deep desire for a fresh experience of Him so that we like Enoch will spend our days as those who 'walked with God' Genesis 5:24.

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