

SERMON NOTES

A-PART 1: PART OF A FRIENDSHIP

INTRODUCTION:

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 (NASB)

12 For just as the body is one and yet has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. 14 **For the body is not one part, but many.** 15 If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But now God has arranged the parts, each one of them in the body, just as He desired. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 But now there are many parts, but one body. 21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again, the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." 22 On the contrary, it is much truer that the parts of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; 23 and those parts of the body which we consider less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor, and our less presentable parts become much more presentable, 24 whereas our more presentable parts have no need of it. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that part which lacked, 25 **so that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same care for one another.** 26 And if one part of the body suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if a part is honored, all the parts rejoice with it. 27 **Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it.**

PROVERBS AS A BASIS FOR GOOD RELATIONSHIP:

Elements of good relationships:

- Friendship is wonderful and important and God given

Proverbs 27:9-10 Ointment and perfume delight the heart, And the sweetness of a man's friend gives delight by hearty counsel.

10 Do not forsake your own friend or your father's friend, Nor go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity; Better is a neighbor nearby than a brother far away.

- The right friends - your companions affect you

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

ADVICE / TIPS:

1. Be friendly - step out, make a move, give first

Proverbs 18:24 A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Proverbs 11:24-25 There is one who scatters, yet increases more; And there is one who withholds more than is right, But it leads to poverty. 25 The generous soul will be made rich, And he who waters will also be watered himself.

Proverbs 30:15 The leech has two daughters-- Give and Give! There are three things that are never satisfied, Four never say, "Enough!":

2. Shared things & God

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 - 9 Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor. 10 For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up. 11 Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm, But how can one be warm alone? 12 Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

3. Words we use

Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

Proverbs 10:19 (NKJV) In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips is wise.

Proverbs 19:22 (NKJV) What is desired in a man is kindness, And a poor man is better than a liar.

Proverbs 15:4 (NKJV) A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, But perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

Proverbs 16:24 (NKJV) Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.

LISTEN

Proverbs 18:13 (NKJV) He who answers a matter before he hears it, It is folly and shame to him.

TRUTH

Proverbs 27:5-6 NKJV - Open rebuke is better Than love carefully concealed.

6 - Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

Proverbs 27:17 NKJV - As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

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WAY & TIME OF SPEAKING

Proverbs 15:1 (NKJV) A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.

Proverbs 27:14 NKJV - He who blesses his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, It will be counted a curse to him.

Proverbs 27:15 NKJV - A continual dripping on a very rainy day And a contentious woman are alike;

SECRETS

Proverbs 25:9-10 (NKJV) 9 Debate your case with your neighbor, And do not disclose the secret to another; 10 Lest he who hears it expose your shame, And your reputation be ruined.

4. Committed to the relationship -

Proverbs 17:17 A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.

5. Repent, forgiveness and restoration

Proverbs 28:13-14 (NKJV) 13 He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy. 14 Happy is the man who is always reverent, But he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity.

Proverbs 19:11 (NKJV) The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger, And his glory is to overlook a transgression.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDES

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

1 - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like:

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

2 - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

3 - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do PRACTICALLY in response to this teaching?

4 - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, "how can we pray for you / each other now?"
- Ask each person to pray or you, as leader, pray for each person's need

The blessing and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry.

Some extra Proverbs that are relevant

Proverbs 27:2, 5-6, 9, 14-17 NKJV - 2 Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; A stranger, and not your own lips. ...

Proverbs 22:24-25 NKJV — Make no friendship with an angry man, And with a furious man do not go, Lest you learn his ways
And set a snare for your soul.

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

Proverbs 16:28 NKJV — A perverse man sows strife, And a whisperer separates the best of friends.

Proverbs 20:19 NKJV — He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets; Therefore do not associate with one who flatters with his lips.

Proverbs 17:9 NKJV — He who covers a transgression seeks love But he who repeats a matter separates friends.

Proverbs 17:14 NKJV — The beginning of strife is like releasing water; Therefore stop contention before a quarrel starts.

Proverbs 10:8 (NKJV) The wise in heart will receive commands, But a prating fool will fall.

Proverbs 10:11-12 (NKJV) 11 The mouth of the righteous [is] a well of life, But violence covers the mouth of the wicked. 12 Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all sins.

Proverbs 10:17 (NKJV) He who keeps instruction [is in] the way of life, But he who refuses correction goes astray.

Proverbs 11:13 (NKJV) A talebearer reveals secrets, But he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.

Proverbs 11:27 (NKJV) He who earnestly seeks good finds favor, But trouble will come to him who seeks [evil.]

Proverbs 12:15 (NKJV) The way of a fool [is] right in his own eyes, But he who heeds counsel [is] wise.

Proverbs 12:16 (NKJV) A fool's wrath is known at once, But a prudent [man] covers shame.

Proverbs 12:22 (NKJV) Lying lips [are] an abomination to the LORD, But those who deal truthfully [are] His delight.