

SESSION 1: Life Together - What Is True Friendship?

I. Introduction:

“Friendship is the only thing in the world concerning the usefulness of which all mankind is agreed.” - *Cicero, 72 BC*

“There is a higher kind of friendship, arising not from habit but from reason, by which we love a person because of mutual trust and benevolence. This kind of love is divine.” - *Augustine, 397 AD*

“Friendship is one of the sweetest joys of life. Many might have failed beneath the bitterness of their trial had they not found a friend.” - *C.H. Spurgeon, 1857*

“In the cookie of life, friends are the chocolate chips” - *Good Housekeeping, 2021*

II. What is True Friendship:

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. - John 15:13

A. Affection - Intimacy - Friendship

1. True Friendship is Rare

a. “A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” - *Prov. 18:24*

b. “Blessed are those who find a friend in the house of sorrow—a friend who gave his heart's blood for you, and let his soul run out in a great river of gore — such a friend will be yours for life.” - *C.H. Spurgeon*

2. True Friendship is Welcoming

a. “What, you too? I thought I was the only one!” - *C.S. Lewis*

3. True Friendship is Powerful

a. “I will go down, so long as you will hold the rope” - *William Carey*

III. Companionship Vs. Friendship

Companionship is often called friendship, but it is not friendship in the sense I give to the word. It is pleasure and cooperation, in talking shop, and is in itself valuable; However, friendship is that which arises out of mere companionship when two or more discover that they have in common some insight or interest or even taste which others do not share and which, till that moment, each believed to be his own unique treasure. - C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*, 83.

A. Christian Companionship

1. A New Creation - 2 Cor. 5:16-17
2. A Brotherly Affection - Rom.12:10-13
3. A Same Mind - Phil. 2:1-11
4. A Quick Forgiveness - Col. 3:12-14
5. A Golden Rule - Matt. 7:12

B. Christian Friendship

1. An Inherent Need - Ecc. 4:9-12
2. A Familial Tie - Proverbs 18:24
3. A Wise Pursuit - 1 Cor. 15:33
4. A Willing Vulnerability - Prov. 27:5-6,9

The mark of perfect friendship is not that help will be given when a pinch comes (of course it will) but that, having been given, it makes no difference at all. - C.S. Lewis

IV. How to Find True Christian Friendship

- A. Be Active
- B. Be Prayerful
- C. Be Honest
- D. Be Loving
- E. Be Quick to Forgive
- F. Be Willing to Sacrifice
- G. Be Like Christ

In Friendship, we may think we have chosen our peers. In reality, a few years difference in the date of our birth, a few more miles between certain houses, the choice of one University instead of another, posting to a different regiment, the accident of a topic being raised or not raised at a first meeting -- any of these chances might have kept us apart. But, for a Christian, there are, strictly speaking, no chances. A secret Master of Ceremonies has been at work. Christ, who said to the disciples, 'you have not chosen me, but I have chosen you'. I can therefore truly say to every group of Christian friends, 'you have not chosen one another but I have chosen you for one another.' - C.S. Lewis