

Sermon Text Discussion 6/26/2016

Proverbs: "The Art of Friendship" by Drew Hunter

Overview

As we continue in our study of biblical friendship, we shift our focus from friendship with God to friendship with one another. Friendship is an art; it requires more than skill to accomplish. In order to recover this art, we need to consider three aspects of friendship:

1. The necessity of friendship
2. The marks of friendship
3. The power of friendship

Quotations

"This world is full of sorrow because it is full of sin. It is a dark place. It is a lonely place. It is a disappointing place. The brightest sunbeam in it is a friend. Friendship halves our troubles and doubles our joys." -J.C. Ryle

"There is no book (Proverbs), even in classical literature, which so exalts the idea of friendship, and is so anxious to have it truly valued, and carefully kept." -Hugh Black

Understanding & Application

- 1) Proverbs 28:24 describes 'companions' and a 'friend'. What is the difference? How do we interact with a companion versus a friend?
- 2) Drew used the analogy of a three lane highway to describe friendship. Explain this analogy. Can you name people in your life in each of the three lanes? Why and how do 'friends' move from right to left? From left to right?
- 3) Read Proverbs 17:17. What do true friends do for each other that companions don't? Describe a time when a true friend came to your aid in a time of adversity.
- 4) Read Proverbs 19:4 and 19:6. Define the term 'consumer friend'. Think of someone in your life you might categorize as a consumer friend. What is your level of trust with him/her?
- 5) At times, true friends have to say hard things to each other. Read Proverbs 27:5-6, 9. What is meant be a 'faithful wound'? Would you rather give difficult counsel to a 'left lane friend' or receive it?
- 6) Drew describes four ways to establish and keep deep friendships – be intentional, stay connected, do something, and be transparent. What are some practical ways we can accomplish each? Which do you struggle with the most? Why?
- 7) How does Jesus model true friendship? Why is having a 'left lane' friendship with Jesus critical to having true Proverbs friendship with one another?