

16. How easy do you find it, when necessary, to rebuke a Christian or non-Christian friend?

17. Are you a sweet friend to other believers?

Read John 15.14-15

As you turn to prayer given thanks to God that through the obedience of faith we are counted worthy to be friends of Jesus.

Pray

- Pray for the school End of Term service coming up on 24 July.
- Pray for refreshment over the holiday period and perhaps for opportunities to meet up with old friends.
- If you have friends who you find it difficult to talk to about your faith pray for opportunity, love and courage to do so.
- Pray again for those going on Christian camps and the Keswick Convention over the summer.

David Phillips
June 2015

Get Wisdom

Week 9



Sweet Friendship

1. What makes for a good friendship?

2. Are you the sort of person who makes friends easily and do you keep up friendships or find they come and go?

Breaking fellowship

Read 1 Cor 5.9-13

3. In verse 9 Paul refers to a previous letter (not in the Bible) which the Corinthians seems to have understood as meaning they should not mix with unbelievers. What does Paul say he was talking about?

4. Why do you think he says what he does in verse 11? Why does it matter?

5. In correcting their misunderstanding what does Paul say about mixing with non-Christians?

“Friend of Sinners”

Read Lk 15.2-7

6. How does Jesus’ behaviour show what Paul was talking about?

7. Why did Jesus mix with “sinners and tax-collectors” when other respectable religious people apparently did not?

8. Sometimes preachers and authors will encourage Christians to make friends with non-Christians in order to tell them about Jesus. Is such a friendship different or devalued if that is the reason for it?

9. Do you sometimes not want to talk about your faith with friends for fear of losing their friendship?

Read John 3.16-18

10. Do you really believe what verse 18 says? If so, how deep is a friendship if you are not willing to tell a friend about Jesus?

Friendship and faith

Despite what we have already seen Proverbs (and New Testament) shows that friendships can sometimes be at odds with our faith.

Read Prov 2.11-15

11. Pick out the dangers spoken about in these verse passage. In what ways might we encounter these same things today?

12. For each of the following three Proverbs what is the danger we are warned against and what does that mean in practical ways in our own lives?

Prov 13.20

Prov 14.7

Prov 22.24

13. In these various situations how do we ensure that our friendships with unbelievers don’t damage our faith in Christ?

14. Are there other situations where you don’t do things with friends because of your love for Christ?

Sweet Friendship

Proverbs focuses particularly on the spiritual and practical benefits of friendship.

Read Prov 27.9 & 27.17

15. (We saw a similar thing in Prov 13.20). How do both sweetness and hard iron of friendship help us to grow spiritually?

Read Prov 28.23