

'OUTER FUNNEL' FRIENDS

Series: *Friending*

Proverbs 12:26

TWO EXTREMES TO AVOID

The extreme that says...

- ❶ *I can't be FRIENDS with the WORLD.*
(James 4:4, Matthew 5:14)
- ❷ *Jesus hung out with the PARTY CROWD, why not ME.*
(Luke 5:27-32, 1 Corinthians 15:33)

MOVING FRIENDS TO THE 'OUTER FUNNEL'

If my friend is a...

- ❶ *BLABBER MOUTH friend*
(Proverbs 20:19 NLT)
- ❷ *HOT HEAD friend.*
(Proverbs 22:24-25 NLT)
- ❸ *NO LIMITS friend.*
(Proverbs 23:20-21 CEB)
- ❹ *REBEL WITH OUT A CAUSE friend.*
(Proverbs 24:21-22 NLT)
- ❺ *UNRELIABLE friend.*
(Proverbs 20:6, 25:19 NLT)

REALife Application

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching on, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

Friendships are important. Yet it can still be difficult to develop great friendships. What are some of the common challenges people face when it comes to developing friendships? How do these challenges change as we go through different life stages?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. The truth that people need friends to grow is reflected throughout the Bible. A very clear statement of the value of friends is found in Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. After reading the passage, write down as many benefits of friendship that you can find.

Can you think of any other benefits you get from having friends?

Assuming all relationships ebb and flow, how could a list like this create unrealistic expectations of what friendship involves?

2 You may have heard it said, "To have a friend you need to be a friend." The Book of Proverbs has a lot of practical wisdom about how to be a friend. Jot down what each of the following verses says about how to be a good friend.

Proverbs 12:18, Proverbs 17:9, Proverbs 17:17

Proverbs 18:13, Proverbs 27:5-6

Which of these attitudes or actions comes most naturally to you?
Which is most challenging for you?

3. A great example in the Bible of a strong friendship is the story of David (of David & Goliath fame) and Jonathan, the son of King Saul. Despite stressful circumstances, they were able to encourage and support each other through tough times. As you read about their relationship in the verses below, what specific actions, attitudes or principles can we learn about developing strong friendships?

1 Samuel 18:1-4, 1 Samuel 19:1-7, 1 Samuel 20:12-17

Current Series: *Friending*

*'Outer funnel' friends*_Part3-by Pastor Jesse & Marisa Elizondo (2/15/2015).

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