

TOUGH TOPICS – FRIENDSHIP – OCT, 2025

A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. –Proverbs 18:24

Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment. A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion. **–Proverbs 18:1-2**

“To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable.” **–C.S. Lewis**

Job doesn’t teach us how to isolate ourselves, but how not to be a bad friend.

Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” **–Genesis 2:18**

“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**

1. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO NOT BE A GOOD FRIEND?

A. WRONG QUALITY

A good friend is deep relationally.

B. WRONG VALUES

It’s good to have friends that share the same interests, but if the interest becomes the main thing, then it’s the wrong thing.

C. WRONG ETHIC

We should not make a close friend out of anyone who does not have Christ as his friend.

Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.” **–1 Corinthians 15:33**

“We are always disposed to catch the ways of those with whom we live; and the more we like them, the stronger does the disposition grow. Without our being aware of it, they influence our tastes and opinions;—we gradually give up what they dislike, and take up what they like, in order to become more close friends with them.” **–J.C. Ryle**

2. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A GOOD FRIEND?

A. CLOSE

One of the best ways to incarnate the love of God is to be physically present.

"Sin demands to have a man alone. It withdraws him from community. The more isolated a man is, the more destructive sin is." **–Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

B. CANDID

A friend knows when to speak up and when to shut up.

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

Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.
–Proverbs 19:11

"Wishing to be friends is quick work, but friendship is a slow ripening fruit."
–Aristotle

My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins. **–James 5:19-20**

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. **–Galatians 6:1**

C. CHRIST-CENTERED

The best friends in life are those who are friends with Jesus and who follow the example of Jesus.

"In friendship...we think we have chosen our peers. In reality a few years' difference in the dates of our births, a few more miles between certain houses, the choice of one university instead of another...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, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you," can truly say to every group of Christian friends, "Ye have not chosen one another but I have chosen you for one another." The friendship is not a reward for our discriminating and good taste in finding one another out. It is the instrument by which God reveals to each of us the beauties of others." **–C.S. Lewis (The Four Loves)**