

Connection Group Questions

Taken from the sermon on October 8, 2017

Proverbs: Words to the Wise - 3

Questions for PERSONAL GROWTH

Monday: *Friendship...* Let's review some of the passages that Pastor Sherm referenced in his sermon. Please read Proverbs 16:28; 17:9,17 and 27:6, 9,17. These represent many aspects of friendship. What comes to mind as you read these? Who do you consider to be your dearest friends in life? When thinking of them, what verse comes to mind? Today, take a few moments to send that scripture/passage with a note of appreciation to whoever came to mind.

Tuesday: *Consider the consequences...* Please read Proverbs 12:26; 13:20; 22:24-25 and 1 Corinthians 15:33. How can foolish companions lead you astray? What godly characteristic are important to you in choosing your friends and why? Have you or someone you love ever been led astray by "bad company" or "the wicked"? Who comes to mind as you consider that question? Please spend a few moments praying for that person, even if you've lost touch with them long ago.

Wednesday: *Cultivate patience and forgiveness...* There are problems that come with impatience. Please read Proverbs 14:7,29; 15:18, Ephesians 4:1-3 and James 5:8. How are you doing when it comes to being longsuffering and even-tempered in your friendships? What are the benefits of patience and forgiveness? (Proverbs 16:12; 10:12; Matthew 6:14-15 and Mark 11:25)

Thursday: *Communicate love and loyalty...* Have you ever heard the expression, "actions speak louder than words"? Please read Proverbs 18:24; 20:6; 25:19 and Luke 6:31. When words of loyalty are not similarly demonstrated through actions, they are meaningless. Have you ever "talked the talk but not walked the walk" with a friend? Loyalty is easy when there is nothing at stake. Do you respond as one "closer than a brother" when the going gets rough?

Friday: *What a friend we have in Jesus...* Please read John 15:12-15 and meditate upon these words of a well-known hymn...

What a Friend We Have in Jesus,

all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry

everything to God in prayer!

O what peace we often forfeit,

O what needless pain we bear,

all because we do not carry

everything to God in prayer.

Beloved, He is our example and the Friend that never disappoints. Rejoice in Him!

Questions for GROUP DISCUSSION

- Who was your best friend growing up? What were your favorite things to do together?
- What are the characteristics of a "true friend"?
- Read Proverbs 27:6. What is this verse saying about friendship?