



December 4, 2011

Friendships, Relationships and Dating Part 1

'Free To Be' Peer Panel

Do not be misled: Bad company corrupts good character. 1 Corinthians 15:33

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. Proverbs 12:17

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

A righteous man is cautious in friendship, but the way of the wicked leads them astray. Proverbs 12:26

Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses. Proverbs 27:6

"In college there are hundreds of social settings and thousands of friendship possibilities. To not prepare for this major transition is to either choose loneliness or to drift into trouble..." John Bryson, Author of *College Ready, "Empowering Friendships"*

Pre-questions:

1. What are some things that were chosen for you by your folks when you were younger or are still chosen for you presently, that you will be able to choose for yourself when you are on your own at college?

2. When you are away from home, how much freedom of choice do you think you will have?

Is freedom of choice a privilege that is earned or a right that comes by being on your own? What is the difference and why did you pick the statement you did?

While you did get to choose your friends, they were mostly chosen out of those you just happened to be around. When you leave High School for college, the military or the workforce, you have a completely different opportunity and responsibility to choose your friends.

Video clip – 'Empowering Friendships' by John Bryson, College Ready

Discussion

A Look at What the Bible Says

Tobymac testimony

Discussion:

- Can you remember your best friend from 2nd grade? Are you still friends with that person?
- John Bryson on the video said, “Life is a team sport. Your circle of friends will determine, to a large extent, your future pathways.” How would you explain the truths in that statement?
- How would you describe what “Relational Passivity” is?
- What makes someone your friend?
- What kind of friend would you say you are?
- What are some things you can do to build good quality friendships?

What does the Bible say about this?

1 Corinthians 15:33 – We can only live life at a high level, and stay there, with a band of good brothers and sisters around us.

- Restate this verse by making it a positive statement instead of the negative one.
- Why do you think people of “good” character are sometimes attracted to “bad” characters?
- What qualities would you notice in someone of “good” character?

Proverbs 17:17; 18:24 – The kinds of friendships we build can either be shallow or authentic

- Do you have a friend that is closer than family? What does that kind of relationship feel like?
- What is the difference between a shallow friendship and an authentic friendship?
- Why is the wise person cautious in friendships? What does the Scripture say will happen if you are unwise?

Proverbs 12:26; 27:6 – We need “empowering” friendships that build us up.

- Rewrite 12:26 in your own words.
- What are “wounds” from a friend?
- How can you know if you can trust the hurt you experience from a friend?

Wrap up:

- What’s the common theme from all the Bible passages about friendship?
- How are you allowing those close to you to really know you?
- What steps can you take to move your friendships from shallow to real and create trust and accountability?

Take Away's from John Bryson on the Video Clip:

Empowering friends call out the best in you, encourage you, build you up; these are friendships at the character-shaping level.

The single greatest variable to the shaping of what you will become in your future will be the type of people you have around you in your circle of influence.

Life is a Team Sport – we need others and they need us. Your circle of friends, right now and over the next few years, will determine to a large extent your future pathways. They are a far greater influence on you than you may ever know or want to admit.

Relational Passivity – simply responding to who is around you.

Many never learn the skill of searching for, finding and pursuing the building of quality friendships. In college, relational possibilities are wide open. For the first time in your life, you will get to choose your own social network. This is a huge transition you should be prepared for.

Deep, enriched community is what God wants for you. He designed you to thrive in the midst of camaraderie. You can only live life at a high level and stay there when you are in the company of a band of good brothers and sisters around you.

Further Discussion:

1. What relationships, other than friendships, do you expect to change when you leave home after High School?

How will those changes look?

Dec. 18 College Panel Discussion (St. Andrew college students)

Jan. 8 Serve Breakfast at Glide Memorial in SF (Youth Group Activity)

Jan. 15 Friendships, Relationships and Dating Part 2

“Warming up for College” CHALLENGE:

Continue to keep your calendar up to date

Try going ‘off grid’ while studying (no phone, TV, Internet, etc.)

Consciously examine the quality of your friendships.

Look honestly at your relationship with your parents. Think about what could make that relationship better.