

Sex, Romance & The Glory of God

Sermon Notes & Community Group Discussion
Sunday, September 21, 2014

Friend *with* Benefits

Song of Songs 5:16

Friendship is the key to a healthy marriage.

(Genesis 2:18; Song of Songs 5:16; Proverbs 18:24)

Fruitful

(Genesis 1:28)

Reciprocal

(Proverbs 4:23; Jeremiah 17:9; 1 John 4:7-8)

Intimate

(Genesis 32:30; Exodus 33:11; Judges 6:22; 1 Corinthians 13:12)

Enjoyable

(Ecclesiastes 9:7-9)

Needed

(Genesis 2:18)

Devoted

(Romans 12:15; Proverbs 17:17)

Sanctifying

(Proverbs 13:20)

Community Group Questions

1. What most stood out for you from the sermon this week? What is the Holy Spirit having you do in light of it?
2. Is the concept of friendship in your marriage a new concept for you? Explain why or why not.
3. Which of the following attributes of friendship most resonates with you, and with which do you have the hardest time identifying? Talk about why that might be the case
 - **Fruitful:** Friendship with one's spouse, like everything else, exists to glorify God and serve His Kingdom.
 - **Reciprocal:** When both spouses make a deep heartfelt covenant with God to continually seek to become a better friend, the marriage is marked by increasing love and longing with both spouses.
 - **Intimate:** Deep friendships get beyond facts and opinions to the sharing of how we truly feel. Lifelong friends need to be transparent and vulnerable with each other.
 - **Enjoyable:** A friendship with an enjoyable spouse can make a world of difference. Any couple that hopes to exit this life still holding hands must be friends who have fun along the way.
 - **Needed:** We need human friendships in addition to friendship with God. The more a husband's need for his wife and a wife's need for her husband are celebrated as gracious gifts from God, the more oneness and friendship blossom in the marriage.
 - **Devoted:** Proverbs 17:17 says, "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity." In marriage, being a devoted friend in all of life's seasons is essential to building oneness, intimacy, and trust.
 - **Sanctifying:** As sanctifying friends, a married couple needs to lovingly, humbly, graciously, and kindly speak the truth in love to each other so that they may each grow to be more like Jesus Christ.
4. How does the Gospel make friendship with your spouse possible? Consider passages like Ephesians 2:11-18; Colossians 1:21-22.
5. How can we, as a community, help one another be better friends without being condemning and without enabling unhealthy relationships?
6. What will it look like for you to receive the grace of God and pursue friendship with your spouse as a response to what Jesus has done, rather than pursuing that friendship out of duty?

PRAYER

Thank Jesus for making friendships possible and designing us to be and need friends. Pray that we as couples would be honest with one another about the state of our friendships. Ask the Holy Spirit to grow our friendships with our spouses and for those who are single,



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