



now friending

2 Show me your friends, I'll show you your future.

Order of Service - March 4 & 5, 2017

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Now Friending or Un-Friending?

Walk with the wise and become wise for a companion of fools suffers harm. **Proverbs 13:20 (NIV)**

“Show me your friends and I will show you your future”.

*The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray. **Proverbs 12:26 (NIV)***

*Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.” **1 Cor. 15:33 (NIV)***

Jesus said... *“Therefore, go and make disciples...” **Matthew 28:19 (NLT)***

Paul said...*Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings. **1 Cor. 9:19-23 (NLT)***

True friendship is not a matter of title but proximity.

How to define friendship

Four types of people we will encounter:

1. Clueless - blind to faith, totally in this world.

*But people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means. **1 Cor. 2:14 (NLT)***

2. **Seekers and Starters** - near believers and new believers.

... Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God." **John 3:1-3 (NLT)**

3. **Players or Posers** - true players or true posers.

So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. **1 John 1:6 (NLT)**

4. **Water walkers** - "The inner circle"

You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act.
Matthew 7:16 (NLT)

How should I approach my friends?

1. I must recognize **who** and **where** they are and approach them in the right way.
2. I must never let my friends **distract** me from what God wants me to do.
3. I must never allow my friends to lead me to **sin**.
4. I must always love like Christ does, and always with the **end** in mind.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." **John 13:34-35 (NIV)**

Going deeper on your own: Review today's message notes. Now, take a piece of paper and make a list of all those in your life who you would consider friends. Next, draw four concentric circles numbering them from #4 (the outermost circle) to #1 (the innermost circle). Review each name on your list and think about where they may fit in those circles. Pray and ask Christ for wisdom and guidance on how you should relate to each one. Remember, although Jesus loved everyone He did not relate to them all the same.