

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Friends

SERMON REFERENCE: Proverbs 17:17

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2059

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Teenagers are more affected by friends than almost anything else, including sometimes parents and pastors combined.
- b) The deepest need of all of us, whether young or old, is for enduring friendships.
 - i) The deepest longing of the human heart is for a friend who loves us.
 - (1) Someone we can share with and commune with.
 - (2) Someone who truly understands our deepest needs, highest aspirations and our worst fears.
- c) A true friend is a great treasure, but the wrong kind of friend is the greatest danger that a teenager can possibly have.
- d) Proverbs 17:17
- e) Today's message will explain two different categories of friends, three different categories of teenagers, and will give practical advice to parents as they help their children choose friends wisely.

2) TWO CATEGORIES OF FRIENDS

- a) We have casual friends that we minister to.
 - i) We all have casual friends.
 - ii) These are acquaintances that include unsaved friends.
- b) We need to make acquaintances with the unsaved.
 - i) The Lord Jesus did.
 - (1) Luke 7:34
 - (a) Jesus was crucified for being a friend to sinners.
- c) There are certain casual friends that we are to have.
 - i) As Christians, we are to be the salt of the Earth.
 - ii) We are to be separate, but separation is not isolation.
 - (1) We're to be separated from the sin but not the sinner.
 - iii) We are to have these casual friends so that we can bring them to Christ.
- d) 1 Corinthians 9:20-23
 - i) The Apostle Paul is saying in this passage that he knew how to accommodate unsaved people without making them angry and without compromising his convictions.
 - (1) This does not mean that those casual friends are to become intimate friends.
 - (2) This does not mean that we are to have fellowship with them so that they are to become our companions.
- e) 2 Corinthians 6:14, 17-18
 - i) The word for "fellowship" in this passage means "intimacy."
 - ii) We are not to have fellowship and communion with unsaved people.
- f) With casual friends, we are making friends for Jesus.
 - i) Accommodation without compromise
 - ii) We invite them to church.
 - iii) We show love and friendship.

- iv) But we have no communion, fellowship or intimacy with casual friends.
 - g) There are casual friends whom we witness to, and then there are intimate friends that we fellowship with.
 - i) Parents should know who their children’s intimate friends are.
 - (1) Children will be made or broken by their companions.
 - h) Proverbs 13:20
 - i) This passage is not referring to casual acquaintances but is talking about companionship and fellowship.
 - ii) If we have ungodly people for our companions, then we will be destroyed.
 - i) 2 Samuel 13:1-29, 2 Samuel 18:9
 - i) This is one of the saddest stories in the Bible.
 - ii) This whole tragic, sordid mess began because Amnon had a friend.
 - (1) Amnon’s friend made a devilish suggestion.
 - j) We will be like our friends.
 - i) It is not uncommon for teenagers to begin drug habits or drinking because of a friend.
 - ii) Kids get hooked on pornography because they were at someone’s house watching R-rated or X-rated movies.
 - k) Parents can evaluate the spiritual condition of their children by their friends.
 - i) Kids who don’t want to serve God will find other kids just like them.
 - ii) Godly kids will also find one another.
 - iii) You can learn the spiritual state of your children by watching their friends.
 - (1) Listen to their conversation.
 - (2) See how they are dressed.
 - (3) Pay attention to the music they listen to.
- 3) THREE CATEGORIES OF YOUNG PEOPLE (PROVERBS 1:20-22)
- a) Proverbs 1:20-22
 - i) This passage contains the three categories of young people.
 - ii) Every teenager is in one of these categories.
 - b) The first category is the simple.
 - i) If your child is simple, it does not mean that he isn’t intelligent or smart.
 - ii) The word “simple” means “open.”
 - iii) Proverbs 1:22
 - (1) The simple one loves simplicity.
 - (a) This means that he loves the easy way.
 - (b) He wants to go through life without any restraint or discipline.
 - iv) The simple also lacks understanding.
 - (1) Proverbs 9:1-4
 - v) A simple person is easily led into sin and error.
 - (1) Proverbs 14:15
 - (2) If the simple does not believe God’s Word, then he will believe anything.

- (a) He will believe Madison Avenue.
- (b) He will believe false cults.
- (c) He will believe sinful friends.
- (d) The simple is living in danger.
- vi) By nature, all teenagers are simple.
- vii) Proverbs 22:3
- viii) Simple teenagers think that they are indestructible.
- ix) Being simple doesn't mean that they don't have character, but they just don't understand until they get wisdom from God.
- c) Every teenager starts out as simple, but he can become a scorner.
 - i) Proverbs 1:22
 - (1) The simple one loves simplicity, but the scorner delights in scorning.
 - (a) The scorner has a warped character.
 - (b) He's an evil person.
 - ii) You can't tell him anything.
 - (1) You can instruct the simple, but you can't instruct the scorner.
 - (2) Proverbs 13:1
 - iii) He refuses instructions, and he despises godly people.
 - iv) Proverbs 15:12
 - (1) Rebuke a scorner, and he will insult you to your face.
 - v) Proverbs 9:7-8
 - vi) Proverbs 13:1
 - vii) Proverbs 13:13
 - (1) This is referring to everlasting destruction.
 - viii) A synonym for "scorner" is "smart-aleck."
- d) The third category is the fool.
 - i) Proverbs 1:22
 - (1) Fools hate knowledge.
 - ii) Proverbs 1:7
 - iii) A fool will ridicule righteousness.
 - (1) Proverbs 14:9
 - (2) He will laugh at ungodliness, such as immorality, homosexuality, drunkenness, etc.
 - iv) He rejoices in sin.
 - (1) Proverbs 15:21
 - (2) His moral sense has been perverted.
 - (a) He doesn't know the difference between right and wrong.
 - (b) Isaiah 5:20
 - v) Proverbs 26:11
 - vi) Proverbs 17:10
 - vii) His heart is hard, his conscience is seared, and his mind is defiled.
 - (1) Punishment will not change him.
 - (2) His moral sensibilities have been destroyed.
 - viii) Don't let your children hang around scorners or fools.

- 4) WHAT CAN PARENTS DO TO HELP THEIR CHILDREN?
- a) Help them understand the dangers that are involved.
 - i) They do not understand the dangers.
 - ii) Proverbs 19:25
 - (1) Young people do not see the consequences of sin because we have so dumbed down those consequences.
 - (2) Young people need to understand that there are consequences to sin.
 - iii) Parents should take their children to the rescue mission so that they can see the other side of addictions.
 - (1) The advertising that kids see for alcoholic beverages will never show this other side.
 - iv) Your children need to understand that sin has repercussions.
 - b) Carefully guard their company.
 - i) Proverbs 13:20
 - ii) Proverbs 22:10
 - iii) Don't allow your kids to hang around a scorner or fool.
 - iv) Parents should meet any boy who wants to date their daughter.
 - c) Teach them the importance of their choices.
 - i) Life is the sum total of our choices.
 - ii) Every choice changes us.
 - iii) We are free to choose, but we're not free to choose the consequences of our choice.
 - (1) After we choose, then our choice chooses for us.
 - d) Help your children select their friends.
 - i) One of the best things you can do is to make your home the most fun place in town.
 - ii) Have your children and their friends in your home so that you can watch them and see what they're like.
 - e) Refuse to honor fools.
 - i) Proverbs 26:1
 - (1) Don't get your entertainment from a fool.
 - ii) Don't let your children go to concerts or other entertainment venues where they will be entertained by those who have set themselves against God and against wisdom.
 - f) There are additional things that parents need to do:
 - i) Have a positive attitude.
 - (1) Don't talk down to your kids.
 - (a) Words can hurt children.
 - (2) Don't use words that belittle or put them down.
 - (3) Use words that build them up.
 - ii) Learn to listen to them.
 - iii) Try to see life from their point of view.
 - (1) Kids today are facing things that their parents never had to face.

- iv) Be gentle with them.
 - (1) Psalm 18:35
 - (2) Fathers whose children adore them are strong and wise, but gentle.
 - (a) They are not harsh, and they don't yell.
- v) Learn to touch and hug your teenager.
 - (1) Learn to show non-verbal expression.
 - (2) Be gentle with your kids.
- vi) Be transparent.
 - (1) Let them know your faults.
 - (a) They already know that you're not perfect.
 - (2) Your kids don't necessarily want you to be perfect; they just don't want you to be a phony.
- vii) Be available to your kids.
 - (1) A lack of a close relationship with a father is one of the biggest factors to encouraging promiscuity in young girls, even more so than poverty.
 - (a) Promiscuity is much less likely when there is a close relationship to the father.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) It is okay to have casual friendships.
 - i) Invite them to church.
 - ii) Be friendly.
 - iii) Go out to eat together after the church service.
 - iv) But your teenagers should not make these kids their companions.
 - (1) Proverbs 13:20
- b) A true friend is someone who is faithful.
 - i) Proverbs 17:17
- c) A true friend is someone who encourages you and makes you better.
 - i) They will sharpen you.
 - ii) Proverbs 27:17
- d) One of the marks as to whether or not your friend is a true, godly friend is are you a better person for having been with that friend, or is he or she a better person for having been with you?
 - i) A true friend will challenge you.
 - ii) Proverbs 27:6
- e) Choose your friends carefully.
- f) One of the greatest joys of your life or one of the greatest disappointments will be your friends.
- g) There is one friend who sticks closer than a brother, and His name is Jesus.
 - i) Proverbs 18:24
 - ii) He's the one who will guide you to the right friendships.
- h) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.

- i) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16