

Friends | Week 2 | Friends and Fellowship
Life Group Questions
Week of September, 20 2020

Sermon Summary

Friendship with your best friend is a blessing! So too, fellowship with your “church friend” is a blessing! Is there a difference? And what would it mean to find a Christian friend? a Christian best friend? Is that the same as being part of the fellowship of a church? This message explores what it means to have friends who share your faith as well as the important distinction between the fellowship of Christians and the self-selected blessing called friendship. Grab a friend and have a listen!

MATTHEW 5:43-48

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor ² and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s sermon did you find to be most helpful, encouraging, eye-opening, or troubling? **Explain.**

2. **So, which is it? As a church family; is The Way Church close or cliquy?**
As you answer that, consider the quote below: do we take seriously the divine command in Matthew 5?
“The oft times freely swinging barn door of relationships that we find in our churches today (How’s that for a picture?) suggest that Christians might not fully take seriously the implications of the fact that Jesus’ call to love one another is first and foremost a divine command.” – *David Horn, Soulmates: Friendship, Fellowship, and the Making of Christian Community*

3. This text (Matthew 5) is a part of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. Verses 43-48 are all Law. That is, it is all commands, God telling you what to do. **How does this text point you to the Gospel? In other words, how does Matthew 5 point you Christ and all that he has completely done for you?**

4. Friendship with a few is not a sin! **Why might some act as though it is and label friendship as “cliquy”? What would you say to someone who labels a friendship “cliquy”?**

5. Fellowship with everyone IS a blessing for everyone! **Why might some Christians act as though it is only for their “friends” at church? What would you say to someone who has a hard time extending the open arm embrace of fellowship to people they haven’t met yet?**