

Next Step Class – Session 8

The bible we use is the New Believer's Bible – First steps for new Christians by Greg Laurie



Let's watch the video for session 8 – "Christian Relationships"

Video notes:

- Community was a core value of what it meant to be a follower of Jesus
- Our American culture values individualism, and independence, being self-made
- Americans are very selective about who we want to open up to, share our heart with
- Acts chapter 2:42 (page 139), we see the formation of Christian friendship and community
- They broke bread together, prayed together, and studied scripture together
- Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 12 (Page 210) – We don't do Christianity alone
- Who we hang around will determine if we have good, or bad character
- Developing strong Christian relationships is a big deal
- Avoid isolation

What does the Bible say about friendships and relationships?

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 12 (Page 210) – We don't do Christianity alone

Acts chapter 2:42 (page 139), we see the formation of Christian friendship and community

Read: What to look for in a church: Page 138

One of the Bible's definitions of a good friend is found in Proverbs 17:17: "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity." While this verse could be written off as a simple platitude about friendship, it actually contains an amazing insight into what godly friendships look like.

Proverbs 27:9, which can be translated as "Ointment and perfume make the heart glad, and the sweetness of one's friend comes from his sincere counsel," emphasizes the joy and sweetness found in true friendship, particularly the joy derived from a friend's wise and heartfelt advice. It suggests that a friend's counsel, like a precious perfume, can bring joy and refreshment to the soul.

Godly friends enjoy doing and enduring for each other. Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13). Godly friendships are self-sacrificing and life-transforming. The intimacy we long for is found in Christ and expressed through godly friendships.

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