

“What is Friendship Biblically?”

Proverbs 27:5-10

“Friendship is a mutual effort to keep God first in our lives for His glory. It is a faithful intentionality to work to enjoy God together for our mutual maturation.”

*“And Jonathan, Saul’s son, rose and went to David at Horesh, and **strengthened his hand in God**. And he said to him, **‘Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you. Saul my father also knows this.’**” (1 Samuel 23:16-17)*

- Proverbs 27:5-10:
 - Love that compliments and excuses while one is sinning is a love that is described as **“the kisses of an enemy.”** Love that rebukes and corrects when one is sinning is described as **“a faithful friend.”**
 - *“Do not let my heart incline to any evil, to busy myself with wicked deeds in company with men who work iniquity, and let me not eat of their delicacies! Let a righteous man strike me — it is a kindness; let him rebuke me — it is oil for my head; let my head not refuse it.”* (Psalm 141:4-5)
 - When someone is loved, reproof will be a part of their interactions.
 - All of God’s counsel is a sweetness to our souls.
 - We should never stop cultivating or forsake long friendships that are near to us. It is these friendships that we should run to in our day of calamity!
- *“A friend loves **at all times**, and a brother is born **for adversity**.”* (Proverbs 17:17)
 - A true friend loves in prosperity and in calamity. A true friend is shown by their brotherly affections.
- *“A man of **many companions** may come to ruin, but **there is a friend** who sticks closer than a brother.”* (Proverbs 18:24)
 - True friendship is not one-sided, it is reciprocal. It is a great ingratitude to receive friendship but not return friendship.
- *“Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man, **lest you learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare**.”* (Proverbs 22:24-25)
 - *“My son, do not walk in the way with them; hold back your foot from their paths.”* (Proverbs 1:15)
 - *“Do not be deceived: ‘Bad company ruins good morals.’”* (1 Corinthians 15:33)
- *“Greater love has no one than this, that someone **lay down his life** for his friends. You are My friends if you do what I command you.”* (John 15:13-14)
 - Self-sacrifice is the greatest expression of love. Friendliness is both costly and rewarding.
 - Our friendliness towards Christ is expressed in joyful obedience towards Him.

Announcements:

★**DONATIONS:** Please see the May Newsletter for more information about our monthly collection. ***THIS Sunday is the LAST day for this collection!***

★**MEN'S BREAKFAST:** Men, the monthly Men's Breakfast is THIS Saturday, May 23rd, at the Big Apple Café — Log Pond location, at 7am. If you plan on attending, please let Pastor Zach know (740)618-0739.

★**CHURCH GAME NIGHT:** Our Monthly Church Game Night is THIS Sunday, May 24th, at Andy's house (1062 National Road SE; Hebron), starting at 5pm. Please bring your favorite board game or card game to play, and a food item to share with everyone. EVERYONE is invited to join us for this great time of fun and fellowship!

★**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** We are looking for volunteers to join the Children's Ministry and the Cleaning Ministry. If you are currently a Church Member and are interested in volunteering for either of these ministries, or having questions about serving in either of these ministries, please see Katie Sapp (Children's Ministry) or Krystal Scarberry (Cleaning Ministry).

★*For all other announcements, please see the May Newsletter!*

Pray for our missionaries that they:

John 15:4–5

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”

- Have a deep and growing relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Remember that Jesus is the source of all fruit-bearing.

Colossians 4:2–6

“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison — that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.”

- Will be faithful in prayer and teach others to do the same.
- Will have opportunities to proclaim Christ.
- Teach the Word clearly.
- Wisdom in their relationships.
- Wisdom in their use of time.
- Wisdom in how to speak with/answer each person.

Colossians 4:12

“Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.”

- Labor faithfully for the spiritual maturity of their church.
- Pray that God would raise up an Epaphras for each of them who will labor faithfully in prayer for them and their ministry.