

Being the Right Friend

No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends ...

John 15:15 (ESV)

BEING THE RIGHT FRIEND WITH GOD

Friendship with God requires Submission

Submission is the action of repentance with a humble spirit.

God responds to our submission with grace through forgiveness.

SUBMITTING THE RIGHT WAY

Resisting and Returning

Resistance against the devil is possible because the Cross crippled his power.

Our opposition grows stronger as God gets closer.

Purifying and Maintaining

Reluctance to repent of our actions leads to opposition from God.

Constant repentance fills our life with clarity and stability.

Disgust and Contentment

Tolerating sin leads to mediocre standards and a less meaningful life.

Lives marked by pride continually try to create their contentment.

Lives marked by humility continually receive God's promises as their contentment.

BEING THE RIGHT FRIEND TO EACH OTHER

Humility and Pride can most clearly be seen in our actions and words towards each other.

Church's challenge:

During next week make a dedicated effort to place others needs ahead of your own. While following through on this commitment remember to pay attention to the contentment you experience because of your submission.

Small Group Homework
For the week of May 24, 2015

Finding you in the Message.

1. Look up the definition for humility. Try and create a better definition of humility based on your experiences, examples or scripture?

2. Think of a Biblical or personal example where humility won over a pride filled confrontation? What aspect of humility (examples could be: being calm, confident, content...) proved to be greater in that situation?

Challenge Check-in

3. During this week how did you make an effort to accommodate somebody else before considering yourself?

Digging Deeper and Making it Stick

4. Read Luke 18:9-14 Give an example when you were tempted to be like the Pharisee and exalted yourself at another other person or God's expense?

5. Read Philippians 2:4-5 – Paul describes a balance between thinking of others and thinking of you. What do you believe is a Christ-like balance between the thinking and caring for others and yourself?

6. Philippians 2:6-8 - Christ knew equality to God was not an option but because of sin we do. How do we attempt to gain equality with God?

7. Read Philippians 4:11-13 - Even though verse 13 is the biggest “Christian cliché” of our day and age and is horrifically taken out of context. How is Paul using verse 13 to reinforce his contentment? How is God teaching you to be content in all things?

8. Read 1 Peter 5:6. What does it mean to you to be exalted by God?

Pray this prayer together as a group:

Father, help me to not think of myself as insignificant or unworthy worthy of your calling. Rather lead to think of my self less often while in your presence and the company of others.