

Thank you, again...Lewis Frisby
Speaker for today

What Best Friends Do

“This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that a person will lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends if you do what I command you.” John 15:12-14

“Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”
Ephesians 4:32

August Birthdays

1 Paige Cree 12 Debbie Hoffman
16 Nick Hoffman. 27 Isaiah Diaz

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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Thankful for Good Friends

By Rob Albright

Facebook says I have 715 “friends.” Some are casual friends and others are good friends. A good friend is one you can share your life with -your feelings, thoughts and frustrations. A good friend is one you can work with, share time with, and is patient with you. I cannot imagine living without good friends.

Everyone needs good friends. We need the positive influence they provide and the help and support in our troubling times. Proverbs 17:17a says, “A friend loves at all times” and will make sacrifices for you. Jesus is the perfect example of that (John 15:13).

Yes, we must be careful about the influences around us (1 Corinthians 15:33). We want good influences from a good friend. A good friend will be honest with us and not tell us what we want to hear, but what we need to hear (Proverbs 27:6, 9). Here again, Jesus does that for us.

As the song says, **“What a friend we have in Jesus.”**

The Best of Friends

By Travis Robertson

The book of Proverbs is filled with wise sayings covering a gamut of topics. One topic that it covers quite well is that of friendship. Let’s note four qualities of friendship from the book of Proverbs that will help us discover the best of friends.

First, the best of friends is one who is always in your corner. “*A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity*” (Proverbs 17:17). That doesn’t mean they will always agree with our actions and decisions, but they will never give up on us. They love us and desire the best outcome for us.

Second, the best of friends offers you strength and wisdom. Solomon instructs us, “*Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another*” (Proverbs 27:17). If we are without good friends, we will soon discover how dull we truly are, and that we are in need of sharpening.

Third, the best of friends is one who tells the truth. He will be open, honest, and sincere. Solomon said, “*Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy*” (Proverbs 27:6). We feel good when everyone agrees with us, but we need a true friend to be candid at all times.

Fourth, the best of friends is one who is thoughtful and considerate. We are told, “Like one who takes off a garment on a cold day, or like vinegar on soda, is he who sings songs to a troubled heart.” This friend knows when and how to say or do things to help their friends.

Let’s do our best to become a friend like this and seek out friends that fit these qualities.

Jonah and the Love of God

By Joe Slater

Before we criticize Jonah too severely, put ourselves in his place. God commanded him to preach to Nineveh, the capital of the Assyrian empire. Assyria was a fierce and dreaded enemy of Israel. I could make you nauseous with details of the Assyrians’ cruelty to their enemies. The worse the pain they could inflict and the

longer they could make it last, the better they liked it. No doubt Jonah would have been happy for God to wipe them from the face of the earth. Good riddance!

How would we react if God told us to go preach to Pyongyang (North Korea, ruled by Kim Jong-un)? Or to Kabul (Afghanistan, ruled by the Taliban)? Or to ISIS in parts of Syria? Jonah’s assignment had much in common with those.

Jonah was wrong to disobey God. Let there be no doubt about that! Jonah’s nationalism kept him from understanding God’s love for even the worst of sinners. God’s nature doesn’t change. Today He isn’t willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9); that was true in Jonah’s day too. The sheer ignorance of the Assyrians didn’t excuse their hideous abuses, but it did result in the Lord being longsuffering with them even as He was with Israel and still is with us.

Can we love people who hate us and would be all too happy to kill us if they could? Jesus prayed for the very people who were mocking and murdering Him. A few weeks later His blood cleansed some of them from their sins!

God loves the good and the evil, the just and the unjust, His love is perfect (complete, mature, Matthew 5:43-48). It’s nothing special to love those who love us (v. 46). But loving our enemies makes us like God.

“Love is patient, love is kind, it is not jealous; love does not brag, it is not arrogant. It does not act disgracefully, it does not seek its own benefit; it is not provoked, does not keep an account of a wrong suffered, it does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; it keeps every confidence, it believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

1 Corinthians 13:4-7