Winning Friends & Influencing People, part 1
Proverbs: Wisdom for Life, Part 3
August 27th, 2017

Why Friends & Influence Are So Important

Romans 12:18 (GN) “Do everything possible on your part to live in peace with everybody.”

Every follower of Christ is in MINISTRY

All Christians have the assignment of IMPACTING the world together toward Jesus
Matthew 28:19-20 (GN) “[Jesus said] Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them My disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

If you can’t win friends, you’ll never INFLUENCE people

If people don’t like you, they will want NOTHING to do with our God

The six traits we will look at are COUNTER-INTUITIVE (the opposite of how we would naturally react)

There are times in our development we have to “paint by the numbers,” i.e. have a guide, mentor, etc. to help INSTRUCT us & help us DO these things until we can do them pretty well on our own

Six Traits To Live By

1. LOVE

   BIBLICAL love is the most powerful relational magnet there is
   Proverbs 3:3-4 (NIV) “Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.”
   Proverbs 20:28 (NIV) “Love and faithfulness keep a king safe; through love his throne is made secure.”
   1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NIV) “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”

   • Biblical love is an ACTION, not an EMOTION
     Matthew 5:44 (NIV) “[Jesus said] But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,…”

   • Biblical love GIVES more than it GETS
     Don’t move toward “FAIRNESS,” move toward “RELATIONSHIP”
     Develop a spirit of GENEROSITY – giving more than you get
     Proverbs 11:25-26 (NIV) “A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed. People curse the one who hoards grain, but they pray God’s blessing on the one who is willing to sell.”

   • Biblical love doesn’t take ADVANTAGE of friends and friendships/relationships
     Proverbs 25:17 (NIV) “Seldom set foot in your neighbor’s house - too much of you, and they will hate you.”

2. DEPENDABILITY (Biblical word is FAITHFUL)
   (see Proverbs 3:3-4 and Proverbs 20:28 again)

   • Be SLOW to make a promise or commitment
     Proverbs 20:25 (NIV) “It is a trap to dedicate something rashly and only later to consider one’s vows.”

     Our culture says if you make a commitment you didn’t fully understand, you have every right to find a way to GET OUT OF IT
Proverbs says the solution is not walking away from your commitments but to be **SLOWER** before you make them.

- **Work hard to keep commitments **AT ALL COSTS**
  Proverbs 25:19 (NIV) “Like a broken tooth or a lame foot is reliance on the unfaithful in a time of trouble.”
  Psalm 15:4 (GN) “They always do what they promise, no matter how much it may cost.”

- **Watch out for the **LITTLE** things**
  - Keep **SOCIAL** commitments
    - Learn to **SHUT UP** on the front end of potential commitments
  - Meet **DEADLINES**
  - Tell the **WHOLE** truth

3. **HUMILITY**

Humility allows you to be **ACCURATE** about yourself but don’t **LOOK DOWN** on others
Proverbs 29:23 (GN) “Arrogance will bring your downfall, but if you are humble, you will be respected.”
Proverbs 6:16-17 (GN) “There are seven things that the Lord hates and cannot tolerate: A proud look,…”

When we act arrogant, it is usually out of our **INSECURITY**

The path of humility will always cause people to **SUPPORT** you

- **Treat others as if they are the **GUEST OF HONOR**
  Philippians 2:3-5 (NIV) “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:”

- **Humility doesn’t **BRAG** or **SHOW OFF**
  Proverbs 27:2 (NIV) “Let someone else praise you, and not your own mouth; an outsider, and not your own lips.”

- **Don’t have to always **WIN**
  Proverbs 27:4 (GN) “Anger is cruel and destructive, but it is nothing compared to jealousy.”

**My Next Step Today Is:**

- I want God to use me to relationally connect with people in such a way that it encourages them to follow Christ
- I will take todays message & begin to work on the first 3 traits of winning friends & influencing people this week
- I will take the challenge and begin reading Proverbs each day & answer the 3 questions (handout in lobby)
- I am interested in being baptized on Sept 24th *(this will be the last baptism of the summer)*

**Next week:** Join us as we look at Winning Friends & Influencing People, part 2. Bring a friend!
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If people don’t like you, they will want ______________________ to do with our God

The six traits we will look at are ______________________ (the opposite of how we would naturally react)

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• Biblical love is an __________________, not an ______________________

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• Biblical love __________________ more than it ____________

Don’t move toward “____________________,” move toward “________________________”

Develop a spirit of __________________ – giving more than you get

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5. D____________________________ (Biblical word is _________________)

(see Proverbs 3:3-4 and Proverbs 20:28 again)

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- Watch out for the ________________ things
  o Keep ________________ commitments
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- Treat others as if they are the ________________
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- Humility doesn’t ________________ or ________________
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