

BECOMING LOVE

H O L I N E S S I N 2 0 2 0

Talk-It-Over: Week 9

Being a Friend

“No man is an island, entire of itself” is a phrase first penned by John Donne in a 17th century sermon. It captures the simple human fact that none of us can live a solitary life. We were made, and have continued to evolve, according to that design, to be in relationship with one another.

The unfortunate truth of this however, is that not all human interactions are positive. Not all human relationships are nourishing and sustaining. The ideal relationship between two people is probably best captured by the Australian concept of ‘mateship.’ Mateship is maybe the best kind of friendship possible and is one of those ideals that shape a lot of Australian culture.

However, as popular as ‘mateship’ is in Australia, there is always plenty of room for improvement. Romans 15 gives us a fantastic outline of what true friendship means and how we might strive for it.

Read:

Romans 15

Questions:

1. Who is, or was, the greatest friend you’ve ever had?
2. What made them a great friend?
3. **Faithful** - What does it mean to be a faithful friend? (v.3)
4. **Relational** - What keeps us from stronger relationships with people?
5. **Incarnational** - How do we serve our friends better? (v.8)
6. **Engaging** - How do we make ourselves more genuinely appealing to others? (v.2)
7. **Nurturing** - What is the most nurturing thing someone has said to you? (v.5)
8. **Dynamic** - How easy do you find change? How has your understanding of God changed in the last few months or years?

Prayer Time:

Pray for greater faithfulness in friendships.

Pray for courage to be more relational in friendships.

Pray for strength to serve like Jesus served in relationships.

Pray for insight to see the best in others.

Pray for inspiration to encourage and nurture others.

Pray for boldness in exploring and adapting to new leading of God as we relate to others.

Further Reading:

Romans 16