

V. NEVER HOLD A GRUDGE

A. Reality #5: Grudges destroy friendships.

“He who covers a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates friends.”

Proverbs 17:9

“A perverse man sows strife, And a whisperer separates the best of friends.”

Proverbs 16:28

B. Communicate when offended.

“Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.”

Matthew 18:15

C. Forgive as Christ forgave you.

“And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”

Ephesians 4:32

VI. DECIDE TO TAKE A RISK

A. Reality #6: Jesus took a risk on you!

“12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”

John 15:12-13

B. Take a risk by following “The Golden Rule”.

“Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

Matthew 7:12

Commit To Be A Real F.R.I.E.N.D

BEST RELATIONSHIPS EVER

Best Friendship Ever

Pastor Steve Reynolds

INTRODUCTION

A. The quality of your relationships determines the quality of your life! But the reality is...

Relationships can be hard. You may be lonely and lack relationships. On the other hand you may have relationships, but they are often unhealthy.

But imagine a life filled with a positive network of people that provide mutual happiness. You having a web of relationships that provide comfort and encouragement.

“Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.”

I Thessalonians 5:11

God desires to strengthen your well being through relationships.

B. Attend this teaching series and discover how to apply simple steps from the Bible for your best relationships ever! Here are the relationships that we will explore during this series:

| | |
|--------|---------------------------------|
| TODAY | Best Friendship Ever |
| Mar 5 | Best Marriage Ever |
| Mar 12 | Best Coworkers/Schoolmates Ever |
| Mar 19 | Best Family Ever |
| Mar 26 | Best Church Ever |
| Apr 2 | Best Love Ever |

C. **Text:** Proverbs 18:24

God’s plan for having great friendship is for you to be a great friend.

HOW TO HAVE THE BEST FRIENDSHIP EVER

I. FOCUS ON THE POSITIVE

- A. Reality #1: Most people get criticized a lot.
“...*In the world you will have tribulation; ...*”
John 16:33b
- B. Encourage, don’t discourage.
“*that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.*”
Romans 1:12
- C. Give strokes, not pokes.
“*Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.*” Ephesians 4:29

II. RESPOND TO NEEDS

- A. Reality #2: God designed us not to be self sufficient.
“*9 Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor.
10 For if they fall, one will lift up his companion.
But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up.*” Ecclesiastes 4:9-10
- B. Be alert to the needs of others.
“*Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.*”
Philippians 2:4
- C. Walk in when everyone else walks out.
“*A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.*” Proverbs 17:17

III. INVEST IN GROWTH

- A. Reality #3: Wise people are needed to be wise.
“*He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed.*”
Proverbs 13:20
- B. Grow spiritually and help others to grow.
“*but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—*”
Ephesians 4:15
- “*As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.*” Proverbs 27:17
- C. Provide counsel and correction.
“*Ointment and perfume delight the heart, And the sweetness of a man’s friend gives delight by hearty counsel.*”
Proverbs 27:9
- “*Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.*” Proverbs 27:6

IV. ENJOY LIFE TOGETHER

- A. Reality #4: God didn’t create you to be serious all the time.
“*11 He has made everything beautiful in its time
12 I know that nothing is better for them than to rejoice, and to do good in their lives,*”
Ecclesiastes 3:11a-12
- B. Block out time for shared experiences of fun.
“*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!*” Psalm 133:1
- “*A merry heart does good, like medicine, But a broken spirit dries the bones.*” Proverbs 17:22