

KEY: The “Friend” attracted the most and had the **fewest** drop outs by a wide margin.

KEY: Friendships form **bonds** that keep us strongly attached.

Quote: We need seven friendships within the first six months of attending a new church.
– Roy Saccarius

Proverbs 27:17 “As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of His friend.”

Nazarene Church Survey Study:
What are the most important factors to you in choosing a church?

74 % The feeling of love and acceptance, was the number ONE reason.

KEY: The “Friendship Factor” ranked higher than **Denominational Affiliation**
Location
Programs
Pastoral staff.

III. Friendships Sustain Our Lives

KEY: Friends are people who know all about us but **loves** us anyway.

They know us at our **worst**; but help us be our **best.**

Proverbs 17:7

“A friend loves at all times and a brother is born for adversity.”

Quote: “Many would have failed beneath the bitterness of a trial had they not found a friend.”
-- Charles Spurgeon

Ecclesiastes 3:4

“Let us weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice.”

Conclusion:

The most Godly thing you can ever do for someone else is to **“BE”** a friend.



First Church of God

March 10, 2013

Sermon Outline

Pastor, Robert G. White

Message Title: “Be a Friend”

Luke 14: 15 – 24

¹⁵ When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, “Blessed is the man who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.” ¹⁶ Jesus replied: “A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. ¹⁷ At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had **been invited**, ‘**Come**, for everything is now ready.’ ¹⁸ “But they all alike began to make excuses. The **first** said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’ ¹⁹ **Another said**, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’ ²⁰ **Still another said**, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’ ²¹ The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’ ²² “ ‘Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’ ²³ Then the master told his servant, ‘**Go out** to the roads and country lanes and **make them come** in, so that my house will be

full. ²⁴ I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.”

Introduction: **Friend**

A **person whom one knows, likes, trusts**, and is **fond of**

One of the most Godly things we could do with our lives is to develop true friendships!

John 13: 35 “All men will know you are my disciples if you love one another.”

I. FRIENDSHIPS Attract People to the Lord

70 – 90 % of the people who are in churches across America today are there because **they were invited by a friend or relative.**

Biblical Example Luke 8: 30 – 39 Demonic

³⁰ Jesus asked him “What is your name?” “Legion,” he replied, because many demons had gone into him. ³¹ And they begged him repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss. ³² A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into them, and he gave them permission. ³³ When the demons came out of the man, they went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. ³⁴ When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off and reported this in the town and countryside. ³⁵ And the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they found

the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus’ feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. ³⁶ Those who had seen it told the people how the demon-possessed man had been cured. ³⁷ Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and left. ³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, **but Jesus sent him away, saying,** ³⁹ “Return home and tell how much God has done for you.” So the man went away and told **all over town how much Jesus had done for him.**”

KEY: Jesus sent the healed demonic back to share his story with his friends and relatives.

Biblical Example: John 4: 7 – 36; 39 – 42 (Samaritan Woman at the Well)

John 4: 39 – 42

³⁹ **Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him** because of **the woman’s testimony**, “He told me everything I ever did.” ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. ⁴¹ And because of his words many more became believers. ⁴² **They said to the woman,** “We no longer believe just because of what you said; now **we have heard for ourselves**, and we know that **this man really is the Savior of the world.**”

KEY: She became convinced Jesus was the Messiah, she then introduced the whole town to him.

KEY: We call that Relational Evangelism.

- **Make** a Friend ...
- **Be** a Friend ...
- **Bring** a Friend to Christ.

II Corinthians 2: 14 – 15 “But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and **through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him.** For **we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.**”

KEY: The Bible describes our witness as perfume that can attract people to the Lord.

II. Friendships HELP People Find a Place in the Church.

KEY: Friendships not only attract people to the Lord but they help keep us in the Lord.

What types of people led you to the Lord?

- 1. Salesman**
- 2. Teacher**
- 3. Pastor**
- 4. Friend**