

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Friendship

November 11, 2018

Issue 388

What does it take for someone to be your friend? A good sense of humor? Similar interests? Do they need to have good character, or do you allow just about anybody into your inner circle? What does the Bible say about friendship?

(1). *Friendly people accumulate friends.* Proverbs 18:24 (KJV): "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly; and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." Have you noticed that sour, bitter people do not have many friends? The Bible states that friendliness attracts friends.

(2). *Character is key.* The father in Proverbs chapter

one warns his son of those who will entice him to do wrong. I Corinthians 15:33: "Bad company corrupts good morals." If you let someone into your life who does not share your values, your values will be compromised. We must shine the light of Christ in this dark world, but we must never let the darkness invade our hearts.

(3). *Be willing to disconnect from false friends.* In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said that we should "cut off" anything that would send us to hell. Surely that admonition would include immoral friends. It is never easy to distance oneself from certain people, but it is often necessary.

(4). *Friends are necessary for spiritual development.* Without Barnabas and Paul's countless other friends, he would have not become the apostle the Lord needed him to be. At the end of many of his books, Paul listed the kind gestures done for him by others. If you have loyal friends, be sure they know it. Don't live life on an island. You need the listening ears, compassionate hands, and warm embraces of true friends. But be careful: Don't open your heart to those who would weaken your faith. Surround yourself with those who will help you go to heaven.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Our monthly singings will be next Sunday
- Check the back wall for Hillcrest Nursing Home supplies.
- Give names to Doug for fruit baskets by the second week of December.
- Sign up for Christmas dinner (December 15) on back wall.
- Thanksgiving devotional on Wednesday, November 21.

Morning Sermon: "What Baptism Cannot Do" Tonight's Sermon: "A Time To Weep, And A Time To Laugh"

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Hovis

Pray: Reed

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: E. Walker

Serve: D. Demonbreum, J. Buchanan, Brown

Pray: Billingsley

Pleasant View church of Christ
2500 Highway 49 East
P.O. Box 189
Pleasant View, TN 37146

Sunday School: 9:30
A.M. Worship: 10:30
P.M. Worship: 6:00
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 pm
Phone: 924-9714

Hebrews 11:1
“Now faith is the assurance
of things hoped for, the
conviction of things not
seen.”

If you would like to contribute money to Mani

Pagidipalli, send funds to:

Broadway Church of Christ

ATTN: India Missions

2855 Broadway Street

Paducah, KY 42001

*Chet and Rachel Duke's address: 24331 Town
Walk Dr., Hamden, CT 06518.*

Re-Drawing Your Circle

Years ago a preaching friend of mine told me about an article he read by a prominent gospel preacher. It was an article about fellowship, tolerance, and judgment. The author came to this conclusion: I need to stop re-drawing my circle. But what does that mean?

The author started broadly. He said that when he was young, his world was huge. He did not understand the differences between cultures, churches, men and women, anything. Everyone was in his circle. But as he aged, he started to re-draw his circle. He made the circle smaller by only including those who looked like him (white), talked like him (Southern), and went to church

regularly. But the re-drawing did not stop there. Later, he decided that even people in his own church could not be included in his circle, so he drew the circle even smaller. Over time he came to the sobering conclusion that eventually he would be the only person left in his circle. The only person he would always agree with was himself. He found a reason to push everyone else out. They were always wrong; he was always right. He soon realized that this re-drawn circle had little to do with what is taught in Scripture and everything to do with judgmentalism and selfishness.

Don't misunderstand: We need to draw lines. But we need to be sure

that we only draw lines where God tells us to draw lines. God never said, "Exclude people from your life if they make you the slightest bit uncomfortable. Run away from a congregation if the elders make a decision that wouldn't be the exact decision you would make. Bail out on a marriage at the first sign of trouble. At every opportunity, let it be known that you have it all figured out. Make sure that everyone in your life is *just like you*."

Stop re-drawing your circle. Love what God loves; hate what God hates. Love your enemies. Bless and do not curse. Make your circle that same size as God's.

James Hayes
