



NEED TO KNOW

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO HAVE A FAITH THAT SURVIVES & THRIVES IN A CHALLENGING WORLD
A.K.A. THE LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS

Week 6: We need to know the value of our friends in Christ Philippians 4:1-3

PARK
CHURCH

“I’m here for you!” How comforting it is to know someone is with you and for you on this road of life. God designed friendships not only to be pleasant and fun, but essential in the building up of the body of Christ. The love that we have for one another should cause us to want God’s best for the other and move us to encourage, exhort, and assist to that end. **We need to be and have that friend who will help others to see and know their place in God’s story.**

Paul knew his beloved friends were trying to figure out life and faith in a secular world. He reminds them that they are not alone. Paul and others have blazed a trail of faith for them. Now it is time for them to walk the walk. And to learn to help one another along the way.

Read Philippians 3:17-21

- ***How would you summarize the two opposing “walks” mentioned here?***
- ***What will their end be?***

Read Philippians 4:1

- ***What was Paul’s motivation, concern, desire, etc. in sharing what he did?***
- ***What dangers are there to our faith in our society? How’s your faith been threatened?***
- ***How has a friend helped you to stand firm in the Lord?***
- ***How have you helped a friend to stand firm? How have you failed to do that?***

Read Philippians 4:2-3 Read to remember Philippians 2:1-5 (Prayer point)

Conflict can be divisive. We need to be willing to help and/or to be helped to maintain “the same mind in the Lord.” (Pause for silent prayer as leader reads below)

- ***Is there a person or a situation that comes to mind?*** Ask God to reveal how you can help in this situation and for the humility to receive the help you may or may not realize you need.

The quality of friendship is raised up in Christ to true brotherly love!

Let’s put this love into practice now by speaking and praying into each other’s lives in a new way. Awkward at first? Maybe, but God will teach us how to build one another up in love.

First, ask God to lead you in a time of sharing with and praying for one another.

Next, take some time to speak short statements of affirmation from God’s word into each other’s lives. E.g. “I recognize God’s good work in you, Emily, in the way He stirred your heart to care for Alex.” Or remind someone in the group of something God has done in their life, is doing now or is yet to do. God keeps His promises! Remember that together.

Now, everyone takes a turn to be prayed for! Two people can pray briefly for each one as God leads. Give thanks to God for each one and recognize God’s work in that person as you pray.