

shift

Shift: Part 3

Small Group Questions: Friendship

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Read

Galatians 5:25–6:5; Genesis 2:18; Proverbs 27:5–6; and Matthew 7:5

Reflect

As Christians, we are meant to be in relationship with one another—and we have the ultimate example of the Trinity to show us how. God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are vulnerable to each other and in perfect relationship. What might be keeping you from deepening important relationships in your life? How do your relationships reflect who you are?

Pastor Darrin Patrick highlights several barriers to friendship:

1. Conceited: to look in and feel empty.
 - a. When have you felt “empty of significance”, and why?
 - b. How might you be trying to convince others that you’re life is different than it really is?
2. Provoking: to look down and feel superior.
 - a. Who do you tend to ignore, knowing they want your attention? Why do you think that is?
 - b. In what areas do you need to be careful of feeling superior? How can you combat it?
3. Envy: to look up and feel inferior.
 - a. What causes you to feel disconnected or unimportant?
 - b. Consciously try to keep track of your daydreams. What do these daydreams tell you about what you might envy about others?

Friendship: Invitation

1. Become a community of sinner-restorers.
 - a. Would you say you have friends who cut to hurt, or cut to heal? Explain.
 - b. How has a friend or family member helped restore and heal you? Or vice versa? What did the restoration require of you, and of them? Did it require confrontation? Was it worth the pain and effort?
 - c. What’s the difference between transparency and vulnerability?
2. Become a community of self-correctors.
 - a. How does working on yourself help prevent you from judging others?
 - b. How might you be letting your own issues spill onto others?
3. Become a community of burden-bearers.
 - a. Are you choosing to go it alone?
 - b. How has someone helped you carry a burden? What do you need to carry yourself?
 - c. What would it look like if we all strove to be responsible for ourselves while helping each other at the same time?

Respond: Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?