

Real Friends

Protecting Our Friendships with Agape Love

part 3



1. Keep _____

Colossians 3:14-15

¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. (NIV)

2. Agree _____

3. Say _____

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's message. It is also helpful to discuss your answers with others. This can take place with friends, your family, accountability partners, or ministry groups within the church.

1. What does it feel like to have a friend's love toward you fail to translate into action?

Read 1 John 3:18. How well and how often does your love for your friends translate into actions that truly benefit them?

2. In what way can your expressions of love toward your friends be a cover for your own selfishness? In other words, how have you subtly loved your friends in a way that was actually an attempt to please yourself?
3. List four of your closest Christian friends who are not a part of your immediate family. Next to each name write one thing you could do for them that would truly be for their good – something that would encourage them and build them up.
 - 1) _____ -
 - 2) _____ -
 - 3) _____ -
 - 4) _____ -

Make a commitment to do these four things in the next seven days.

4. Describe a time when you were disagreeable with one of your friends and now, in retrospect, you see that it was completely unnecessary.

Read Romans 14:19 and Ephesians 4:3. Think of a good friend who you find yourself disagreeing with more than the others. How can you specifically make a "better effort" to live harmoniously with him or her?

5. How do you think your friends would rate your level of gratitude? Have they heard you say "thank-you" lately?

Make a list of a few of your friends who are overdue for a genuine and substantive "thank-you" from you. How will you express your gratitude to them this week?

Read through the Bible in a year! Here is this week's schedule.

Sunday

1Chr.22-23 & Ps.21-22

Monday

1Chr.24-25 & Ps.23-24

Tuesday

1Chr.26-27 & Ps.25-26

Wednesday

1Chr.28-29 & Ps.27-28

Thursday

2Chr.1-2 & Ps.29-30

Friday

2Chr.3-4 & Ps.31-32

Saturday

2Chr.5-6 & Ps.33-34