

Winning Friends & Influencing People (*Part 1*)

WHY FRIENDS & INFLUENCE ARE SO IMPORTANT

SIX TRAITS TO LIVE BY

(1) **LOVE**

Proverbs 3:3-4 & 20:28 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 & Matthew 5:44 Proverbs 11:25-26 Romans 5:8, & John 13:1-14

(2) **DEPENDABILITY**

Proverbs 3:3-4 & 20:28 Proverbs 20:25, 25:18, & Psalm 15:1-4

(3) **HUMILITY**

Proverbs 29:23, 6:16-19 Philippians 2:3-5 Proverbs 27:2 Proverbs 27:4

To be continued ...

Food for Thought for the Week of September 13, 2015

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Larry gave us a great way to put humility into action by practicing the “guest of honor” principle. We also heard that humility is not a state of mind or something we feel, but rather an action. What can you learn from the following verses about what humility looks like and how to put it into action?

James 5:16

¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. *[NIV]*

1 Peter 4:8

⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. *[NIV]*

Hebrews 3:13

¹³ But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness. *[NIV]*

Proverbs 12:15

¹⁵ The way of fools seems right to them,
but the wise listen to advice. *[NIV]*

Which of the principles in the above verses above do you do best? Which one might need some work?

2. The fact that “gentle and humble” **Matthew 11:29** ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. *[NIV]* are the only character qualities Jesus uses to describe himself in the New Testament definitely points to their importance. How do the following verses reinforce the importance of humility and its role in our lives?

Psalms 18:27

²⁷ You save the humble
but bring low those whose eyes are haughty. *[NIV]*

Proverbs 11:2

² When pride comes, then comes disgrace,
but with humility comes wisdom. *[NIV]*

Psalms 25:9

⁹ He guides the humble in what is right
and teaches them his way. *[NIV]*

Psalms 149:4

⁴ For the LORD takes delight in his people;
he crowns the humble with victory. *[NIV]*

Can you think of a time when you’ve seen the results of these verses show up in your life when you’ve acted humbly?

3. An essential part of loving others is putting their needs in front of your own. Read Mark 14:1-9 and John 13:1-5. Why do you think these people were willing to put aside some of their own wants or needs to help others?

Mark 14:1-9

Jesus Anointed at Bethany

14:1 Now the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were scheming to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. **2** “But not during the festival,” they said, “or the people may riot.”

3 While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.

4 Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, “Why this waste of perfume? **5** It could have been sold for more than a year’s wages and the money given to the poor.” And they rebuked her harshly.

6 “Leave her alone,” said Jesus. “Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. **7** The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. **8** She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. **9** Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.” [NIV]

John 13:1-5

Jesus Washes His Disciples’ Feet

13:1 It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

2 The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. **3** Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; **4** so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. **5** After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. [NIV]

What did it cost them to put their love into action?

What might it cost you to follow their example?

SEEKING GODLY WISDOM / Proverbs Daily Reading Plan:

Read the chapter that corresponds to the day of the month and consider these questions:

- ⇒ What applies to me today?
- ⇒ Where have I seen this in others?
- ⇒ Where have I experienced this?

Go to this link for more info: <http://www.northcoastchurch.com/proverbs-reading-plan>