

Please welcome...

Preaching for us once again is “our own” **Phil Cornelius**. Be sure to thank him for his help!

Looking Forward!...

Our new preacher, Mike McKnight and his wife Morgie, along with their three boys, Noah, Daniel and “new arrival”, Joseph Samuel will likely be attending with us next Sunday! Mike’s first Sunday to preach will be the following Sunday, April 5.

Website

You can go on our website (indiochurchofchrist.com) and find a link to **videos** (with audio) of all the sermons from our Last-Saturday-in-February meeting! Tell your friends.

March Birthdays

2 Gonzalo Medina 9 Jessica Aguiar
8 Drina Zamarripa 18 Buddy Cashion 30 Barrett Hoffman

March Anniversaries

6 Harold and Dortha Gentry 24 Chuck and Pat Limburg

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
Mike McKnight

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The First Topic in Proverbs

By Denny Petrillo

“My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not”

(Proverbs 1:10)

I find it interesting that once Solomon gets past the introductory material the very first topic he addresses with his son is his **friends** (or potential friends).

Really? The very first topic? The wisest man to ever live (1 Kings 3:12) feels like he needs to start there? What about God? What about God’s word? What about the temple (or for us, the church)? There are dozens of vital things to learn, but he starts with his **friends**? That fact alone is deserving of pause. Solomon does this because he knows the following truths:

First, our friends can determine our interests.

We are going to be drawn to what they like. The music they like will become the music we like. The sports they think are dumb, we will too. The people they like? You guessed it. They will become the type of people we like as well. Solomon knows that if his son chooses friends that are sinful, they will destroy any interest in God, His word, or the temple.

Second, our friends can shape our character.

Here Solomon is afraid that his son might choose to go with friends who are interested in robbing and stealing to get a lot of money. They are even prepared to kill the victim if necessary. How does one become like this? In part it was because he chooses bad friends. Solomon knows that his son could become just like them. Paul said it clearly: *“Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners”* (1 Corinthians 15:33; cf. Proverbs 28:7). Apparently one can be “deceived” into thinking “it won’t hurt if I hang around with them,” or “they won’t be able to change who I am.” Wrong. They will. Don’t be so foolish to think otherwise.

Third, our friends do not have power over us.

Peer pressure is a powerful force. No doubt about it. Yet one can overcome that power and simply “just say no.” What the friends are offering sounds so appealing. A house filled with wealth? (Proverbs 1:13). How does it get any better than that? But as appealing as that may be, the son has to be wise enough to see through that. He has the right to choose, and to reject their offer.

While this material is about the young, it remains true for people of all ages. Choose well your associates. Teens need to find friends who have spiritual interests. College students need to find those on campus who have a relationship with God. Adults need to find a work environment that will enable them to pursue righteousness. All need not to choose the TV as their “companion,” or music that is done by non-spiritual, godless people. Make good choices. Eternity is at stake.

Vitamin F

Submitted by Ralph Harman

Why do I have a variety of friends who are all so different in character? How can I get along with them all? I think that each one helps to bring out a “different” part of me. With one of them I am polite. I joke with another friend. I sit down and talk about serious matters with one. With another I laugh a lot. I may have a tea with one. I listen to one friend’s problems. Then I listen to another one’s advice for me.

My friends are all like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle. When completed, they form a treasure box. A treasure of friends! They are my friends who understand me better than myself, who support me through good days and bad days. We all pray together and for each other.

Real Age doctors tell us that friends are good for our health. Dr. Oz calls them Vitamins F (for Friends) and counts the benefits of friends as essential to our well-being. Research shows that people in strong social circles have less risk of depression and terminal strokes. If we enjoy Vitamins F constantly we can be up to thirty years younger than our real age. The warmth of friendship stops stress, and even in our most intense moments it decreases the chance of a cardiac arrest or stroke by 50 percent. I’m so happy that I have a stock of Vitamins F!

We should all value our friends and keep in touch with them. We should try to see the funny side of things and laugh together and pray for each other in the tough moments.

A Friend Like That

By Caleb Colley

(“modified and personalized by the editor”)

We are likely blessed to have many friends. Some are from our math class at school, some of them go to church with us, and we probably play sports with some of them.

While we certainly don't want to be selfish with our friend's time, we must acknowledge that the more people our friend knows and admires, and the more people who know and admire our friend, the less time our friend will have to pay attention to us. That's just the way people are, because they only have so much time and they can't be in two or three places at once. It almost makes us wish that we had a friend that didn't have any friends beside us, doesn't it? We want to have a friend all to ourselves. That way, anytime we needed him, he would be there, and would be dedicated to helping and caring for only us.

But where can you find a friend like that? Good news! Jesus is exactly such a friend. Of course, He's not just our friend, He's a friend of all those who serve Him (John 15:14). The key is that He's not bound by time or space, and so He's there for us anytime, anywhere (Psalm 139:7-10). We might say, "I know Jesus was a great teacher and I know He was the apostles' friend, but how can Jesus be my friend when I can't even see Him?" Let's start here: We have His spiritual teachings and perfect instruction in God's Word ever at the ready, which abundantly reassures us that He knows us personally, and He knows exactly what we need (Matthew 6:8, John 10:30). He wants to fulfill our physical necessities (Matthew 6:25-32). He knows what it's like to go through every temptation we have (Hebrews 4:15). He's our friend even when we do wrong (Matthew 26:50). We can rest assured that He's always ready to be our advocate before the Father (1 John 2:1, Hebrews 4:16), and we can know for sure that He's preparing a place where we can be with Him for all eternity (John 14:2-3).

Who could ask for a better friend than that? The question is not whether or not we have a friend in Christ. We do. The question is this: Does Christ have a friend in us?

“You are My friends if you do what I command you.”

John 15:14