



**Reflection Guide**  
**Sermon Title: What About Your Friends**

---

**Key Takeaways**

- ⇒ There is no such thing as a neutral relationship. Every relationship either moves you forward or pulls you backward, makes you stronger or makes you weaker.
- ⇒ There are three ways to do friendship: Culture's Way, the Church's Way, and the King's Way and only one of them produces the goodness and growth God intends.
- ⇒ Friendship for the Christian is not casual, it is covenantal. Jesus used the word "friend" as a loaded covenantal designation, not a casual social label.
- ⇒ Jesus modeled and defined covenantal friendship through five distinct qualities: a willingness to sacrifice, humility that can handle instruction, heat-tested character that can be trusted, honor for responsibilities outside the friendship, and a head that can handle exposure to what others do not get.
- ⇒ Clarity about what friendship actually requires will lead many people to realize they are either unaligned with this standard themselves, or they have given the title of friend to people God would not.

**Personal Reflection**

1. Proverbs 13:20 says that walking with the wise produces wisdom, but a companion of fools suffers harm. The sermon noted that many people never consciously choose who they are walking with. How intentional have you been about evaluating the direction your closest relationships are pulling you?
2. Pastor Dharius shared that toxic loyalty is something that "confuses love with agreement" and enables people rather than helping them grow. Have you ever been on the receiving end of that kind of friendship, or have you offered it to someone else? What was the outcome?
3. Over-spiritualization is assuming that everyone you call a brother or sister in Christ is automatically someone you can call a friend. Why do you think that assumption is so easy to make in a church environment? What problems does it create?
4. The King's Way was described as friendship that produces both goodness and growth. What does a friendship look like in practice when it is genuinely contributing to your spiritual formation and not just your social comfort?
5. Jesus told his disciples "You are my friends" after three years of shared meals, shared ministry, shared conflict, and shared failure. The message stated that friendship is "a conclusion you reach after observation, not a designation you assign on day one." How does that reframe the way you think about who has earned the title of friend in your life?