Life Groups

The Company We Keep Chapter 1

Chapter 1 Thoughts (feel free to do your own thing, but here are some of my thoughts on leading through the Chapter)

Chapter 1 was setting the stage for and defining “biblical friendship”

1. Read the bulleted points on page 9 and see if anyone in the group identifies with these scenarios regarding expectations from relationships in the church
   1. Make sure you take the time to ask people and give time for responses
2. Read paragraph 2, page 18. Christian Fellowship vs biblical Friendship
3. -Pg 19 “The Trinity is the most fundamental expression of community and relationship. Therefore, one of the simplest, yet most profound aspects of mankind being made in Gods image is that we were designed to live in relationships”

-Page 21 “And part of our image-bearing capacity entails living in relationships with others, not relationships merely around common interests, but relationships that emanate from our very nature as image bearers.”

* + 1. Do you believe this?

1. 3 Components of connection between sin and our friendships
   1. Vertical (pg 22)
      1. In regards to our unredeemed state: “If this fundamental vertical isolation between us and God is not addressed, then the ability to move horizontally toward others in biblical friendship is impossible”
   2. Motivational (pg 23,24)
      1. “We often pursue friendship not out of biblical understanding, of bearing Gods image… but out of a desire for personal benefit” Motivation can be selfish
   3. Missional
      1. “Friendship has the ability to tell a story”
         1. What story are we telling each other and others with our friendships?
2. Read Kellers quote at top of pg 27
   1. As Christians, nothing external should ever get in the way of a biblical friendship.
3. Read biblical friendship defined (pg 27)

**Do the Dig Deeper question on page 28 with a heavy focus on questions 2 and 3. Give everyone a chance to answer for these two questions. You may want to go around one by one and have everyone answer these questions.**

Homework: Read Chapter 2

Prayer requests: Focus prayer time on being more intentional with biblical friendships.