

RECOVERING BIBLICAL FRIENDSHIP

BACK to the BASICS series at Harbour Shores Church

Sermon Title: *Recovering Biblical Friendship: The Greatest Friend*

Scripture: Matthew 11:19, et al

Stephen Schultze / Sunday, September 25, 2022

The failure of human friendship leaves us longing for better friendship...for **unfailing friendship**.

“a friend of tax collectors and sinners!” Matthew 11:19

What is the Proof of Christ’s Friendship? (John 15:13-15; Romans 5:6–8)

Jesus Is clearly the Greatest Friend because He has gone the **distance** to befriend the greatest sinners.

What is the Nature of Christ’s Friendship?

- The Greatest **Love** (John 15:9-10; Romans 8:31-32)
- The Greatest **Intimacy** (John 15:10; John 17:7-10)
- The Greatest **Compassion** (Hebrews 4:15-16; Matthew 6:26, 32)
- The Greatest **Constancy** (Hebrews 13:8)
- The Greatest **Capacity** (Revelation 1:17-18; Psalms 118:6)
- The Greatest **Concern** (1 Timothy 1:15)

How Can We Enjoy Christ’s Friendship?

- Be **reconciled** to God. (2 Corinthians 5:20; Matthew 7:13-14)
- Be devoted to **communion** with Jesus Christ. (Revelation 3:20; 2 Peter 3:18)
- **Trust** Jesus and live in faithful obedience. (John 15:14)
- Let your relationship with Jesus **transform** your relationships with others. (1 John 4:19-21)

Questions to Consider:

- *How do you respond when your earthly relationships disappoint you? What does this tell you about your expectations and your heart?*
- *The Jews called Jesus “a friend of sinners” in a derogatory manner. In what ways is it, in fact, joyous news for us?*
- *In what ways has Christ “gone the distance” for friendship with us? What response does that provoke in your heart and mind?*
- *How does the nature of Christ’s friendship draw you in and lead you to worship?*
- *In what ways are you growing to enjoy Christ’s friendship?*