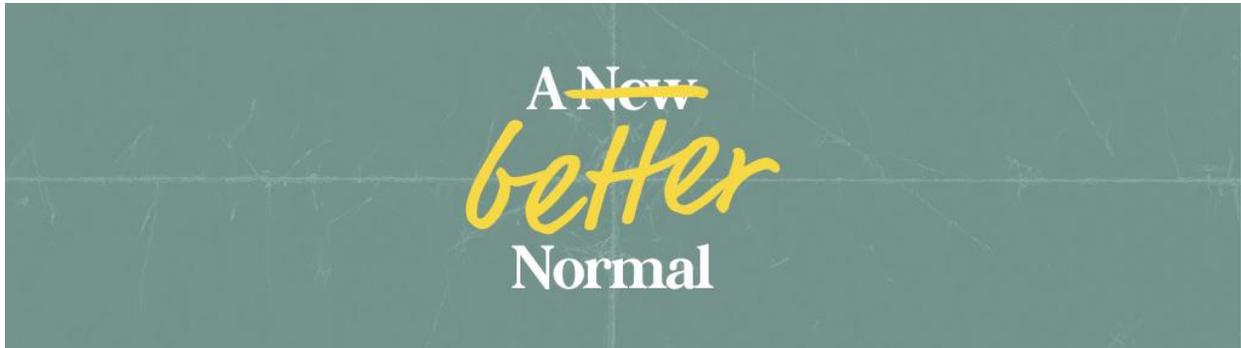




#2 – A New Better Normal
Pastor Shawn Peterson
[FoothillsBibleChurch.org/sermons](https://foothillsbiblechurch.org/sermons)



April 18, 2021 New Better Friendships

How does God want me to live?

What does the Bible say about friendships?

1 - A biblical friend is committed to your best

Proverbs 18:24

A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Proverbs 17:17

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Proverbs 27:6

Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.

Proverbs 27:9

Oil and perfume make the heart glad, and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel.



... loves you enough to **work toward your best**

1 - A biblical friend is committed to your best

What does the Bible say about friendships?

2 – A biblical friend aligns their heart with yours

Job 2:11-13

¹¹ Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that had come upon him, they came each from his own place, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. They made an appointment together to come to show him sympathy and comfort him. ¹² And when they saw him from a distance, they did not recognize him. And they raised their voices and wept, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads toward heaven. ¹³ And they sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.

1 Samuel 18:1,3-4

As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

³ Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. ⁴ And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt.

2 – A biblical friend aligns their heart with yours

What does the Bible say about friendships?

3 – Wise or foolish friends effect you

Proverbs 13:20

Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

Proverbs 27:17

Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.

3 – Wise or foolish friends effect you

How do we get great biblical friends?

1 – Look for Fellow Christians

2 – Look for Fellow Soldiers

1 – Look for Fellow Christians



Acts 19:29

So the city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed together into the theater, dragging with them Gaius and Aris-tarchus, Macedonians who were Paul's companions in travel.

“companions in travel” = Traveling companions
They traveled together, through foreign countries

Philippians 3:20-21

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

2 - Look for Fellow Soldiers

Philippians 2:25

²⁵ I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need

“Fellow Soldier” = someone who labors with you in the dangers of Christian warfare
Someone who shares the same passion as you to advance God’s kingdom

Growth Group Questions New Better Friendships

FoothillsBibleChurch.org/growth-groups

Big Idea: Biblical friends align their hearts with yours for mutual good with wisdom.

Goal: Develop behaviors which align our friendships with God's Word.

Prepare

This week we are diving into *friendships* asking God to develop behaviors which align our friendships with His Word. The personal preparation time and discussion are meant to help us flesh out what we have learned through the sermon and apply it more thoroughly in our lives together.

Watch Pastor Shawn's sermon, *New Better Friendships*, noting anything memorable and impactful as you go. You can take notes in the FBC app if you would like.

Memorize and Recite Together: 1 Corinthians 10:31 "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

Pray "Father, help us become people who, whether we eat or drink, or whatever we do, we do all to the glory of God."

Connect

1. Share one of the funniest things you did with your closest friends in high school.



Discussion Take some time to personally reflect on these questions after viewing the sermon and before your G2. It could make for a great morning devotional time! You can type and save your responses in the FBC app privately if you would like.

1. What did you learn about God and yourself from this sermon and passage and what would you like to see change in your life because of it?
2. Apart from your family members, who are your closest friends and why did you choose each other?
3. Considering various aspects of friendship such as amount of time spent together, what you did during that time, and the value placed on friendship, etc., compare your friendships at different stages of life.
4. Why do you think many people do not have close friends in their lives?
5. **Read Proverbs 18:24, 15:23, 12:25, 27:6, Ephesians 4:15, John 15:15.** There are at least 3 ways to develop close friends: Be Loyal, Be Encouraging, Be Honest. Share how you have experienced one of these in your friendships and the impact on your relationship.
6. Friendship is about discovering people with shared perspectives, passions, and common interests. How might God be speaking to you about discovering and developing real friends in this particular season of your life and what would it look like?
7. **Read Proverbs 13:20.** How has this proverb been demonstrated in your life and what is one tangible, intentional way you can practice “walking with the wise”?



- a. Consider if any of the following statements sound familiar when it comes to your friendships. If so, share which ones and discuss the impact it could be having on you now and in the future.
 - i. It dawns on you that your core group is not moving in the direction you want your life to be moving.
 - ii. You catch yourself pretending to be someone other than who you really are.
 - iii. You feel pressure to compromise.
 - iv. You hear yourself saying, "I'll go, but I won't participate."
 - v. You hope the people you care about most do not find out where you have been or whom you have been with.

8. Generally speaking, how happy are you with your friendships now?

a. If you could make one change in your friendships, what would it be?

b. What is one thing you could do to develop closer friendships in the next month?

Closing Prayer This prayer section is a guide to help you process with God what you have learned about Him and yourself through the sermon, personal preparation time, and discussion, then seek the Holy Spirit's power in applying it in your life. Sharing these responses in your G2 will help others gain insight into God and themselves while also helping and encouraging one another toward growth.

1. **Admire:** Praise God for His creativity, cultivation, and collaborating with you in it!
2. **Admit:** Confess ways you look down on some kinds of work or workers, including yourself.
3. **Aspire:** Pray as a group, "Father, help us become people who, whether we eat or drink, or whatever we do, we do all to the glory of God."
4. **Ask:** Ask God to give you a fresh vision of how you can increase the welfare of your community. Keep track of requests and celebrations from others in your G2 and pray for them.

