



LESSON 7

“At Our Savior’s Way Lutheran Church, we value growing God’s family.”

GETTING STARTED:

Which person in your life has been the best example of love?

DIGGING DEEPER:

Proverbs 27:17 *As iron sharpens iron, so one man(woman) sharpens another.*

Question: Who do you go to for support or comfort in difficult times? What is it about your relationship that causes you to seek them out?

Question: What are the qualities that make a person a good friend?

John 15:9-14a *As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends.*

Question: Jesus talked about having a radical friendship with us and laying down His life for us. What does His example mean for the relationships in our life? How does a person lay down their life for someone else?

Philippians 2: 1-5 *If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.*

Question: What are the five motives for living in unity that we receive from Jesus Christ mentioned by the apostle Paul?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Question: How would you describe humility?

Question: Why is humility important for healthy relationships?

APPLICATION:

Philippians 4:6-11: *Who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death even death on a cross! Therefore, God highly exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Question: How would you describe the attitude of Christ?

Question: And how does Jesus' example help us understand how we can deepen the relationships in our lives?

Question: What does it mean to consider another person better than ourselves?

CHALLENGE:

The next time you are with someone who is not easy to get along with, ask Jesus to help you find a way to extend His love. In time, you might be surprised by how God can change your attitude about people. - The key to getting along with others is having the mind of Christ.

- Joe Stowell - "Our Daily Bread"