

How to Listen to Friends

Sermon Main Points:

- I. Ignoring Them (1-16)
 - A. When (1-11)
 - B. How (12-16)
- II. Submitting to Them (17-26)
 - A. When (17-23)
 - B. How (24-26)
- III. Biblical Characteristics of Friendship (Proverbs)
 - A. Togetherness (Proverbs 18:1, 24)
 - B. Talking (Proverbs 27:6, 9)
 - C. Toughness (Proverbs 27:10)

Discussion Questions:

1. Why does Paul ignore his friends' urging not to go to Jerusalem? To what does he appeal?
2. How and why does Paul submit himself to his friends in the latter half of the passage?
3. How can you surround yourself with friends who will encourage you? How can you be a better friend to those you know by being present and encouraging?

Going Deeper

1. Do you show up in other people's presence to practice togetherness? How does Jesus example and the necessity of his showing up encourage you to do this?
2. Do you speak words - even difficult words - to friends when needed? Or for fear of conflict, do you only say what is safe? How does Jesus love us with the truth, even when it is hard to hear?