The Company We Keep Chapter 3

Thoughts on Chapter 3

1. Friendship isn’t about what we need to do , but who we need to be. (pg 46)
   1. There is a difference in doing vs being. “Being” is based on character and “doing” is does not necessarily have a character component to it.

4 Characteristics that distinguish wise friendships. It is important to know these are not the only characteristics but 4 of the primary ones that Johnathan Holmes point out.

Although these 4 characteristics are for us to emulate to others, it is just as important for us to be ok to receive these things from friends. It is easy to look at these for things as what we need to do to be a good friend. A good friend also should be willing to receive candor and counsel as well. It goes both ways.

1. Constancy
   1. Younger people especially struggle with this. Friendships tend to be a matter of convenience and disposable. (pg 47)
   2. Proverbs 20:6 “ Many a man proclaims his own steadfast love, but a faithful man who can find?”
   3. Constancy ties back to God example of love for us. He is faithful, constant and refuge in a time of need. (pg 49)
   4. Biblical friendships are not fleeting and easily disposable, but characterized by true constancy, in defiance of the obstacle continually tossed at us be the effects of the fall. (pg 50)
2. Candor
   1. The ability to speak truth in love for the good of your friend (pg 50)
   2. Proverbs 27:5-6 “Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of the enemy.”
   3. Do you have anyone that you have given a “hunting license” to ? We need a person or two to have this license. (pg 53)
3. Carefulness
   1. Carefulness urges wisdom and consideration in HOW to live out the life of friendship. A biblical friend is careful, not in an overtly timid or cautious sense, but in consideration and care. (pg 53)
   2. Careful and speech and timing
      1. Timing is important.
      2. Prov 25:11 timely words are apples of gold in a setting of silver
      3. The careful friend, wise about his timing, will know when and how to speak truth in love, and he will also know when his friend has had enough and needs some time alone to process. (pg 55)
   3. Careful in Stewardship
      1. Proverbs 11:13 Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a thing covered.
4. Counsel
   1. Many verses in Proverbs (pg 56)
   2. Counseling is simply inter-personal ministry. It is living out the one-another’s of Scripture together. In a biblical friendship, counseling can and should thrive naturally (pg 56)
   3. Should be done out of a sincere love for the other
   4. MacDonald quote “what I really need are relationships in which I will be encouraged to become better than myself” (pg 57)

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This is where deeper dialogue can happen.