Awareness of Others
The Marks of a Friendly Church
June 15, 2014
(Ezek 22:30 NIV) "I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none."
• “Road To Redemption” – June 22, 7pm -- FLC

• SUMMERFEST -- June 29, 10:30pm -- Sanctuary

• Bring A Friend!
The Advantage Of Being A Friendly Church:

- Very Few Of 300,000+ Congregations Are Growing
- Yet --- Some Are Growing!
- Growing Churches Are Friendly Churches!
Awareness of Others
The Marks of a Friendly Church

• Growing Churches Have A Decided Aim:

To See Their Friends Won To Jesus And To Come Into The Church
75%-79% of those who visited a church did so due to the influence or invitation of a friend or relative.
Many People Today Are Looking For Friends!

They want to know

- "Do you like me?"
- "Do you care about me?"
- "Can I find a place here?"
Characteristics Of Non-Churched Friends:

1) They reject the Church but not God
2) They are often adrift
3) They resist rules but respond to reason
4) Have legitimate questions
5) Concerned whether Christianity WORKS
6) Attracted to where their needs will be met.
7) Want to be a friend not a project
Jesus said, "We are to be the Light of the World. That means we are to impact the darkness."

The advantage of a friendly church is that it is set up to do so.
• The Awareness Of A Friendly Church

• A Friendly Church Has An Awareness Of Others And Their Need For Quality Friendships
• (Gen 2:18 NIV) The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."
God Created Us To Live Our Lives Within The Context Of Relationships

Yet -- There Are Many Who Are Without True Friends Who Really Care
A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.
friendlessness and loneliness are an epidemic in our modern culture
many people are desperate for a friend

howard hughes “i’d give it all for one good friend.”

the friendly church must be aware of the need
• **We Need To Be Aware Of Others**

• **Be Aware Of Their Need For Solid Godly Relationships And True Friends**
Friendly Churches Are **Aware Of The Power Of The Personal Touch:**

- A Friendly Church Is **“Occasion Conscious”**
  Looking For Opportunities To Invite Friends To Special Occasions And Events
Aware Churches Are:

• Aware Of The Spiritual Condition Of Those Who Have Not Yet Received Christ As Lord And Savior

• Aware Of The Healing Power Of God’s Love And Care

• Aware Of The Sad Plight Of Others Without God
A Friendly Church Has An Awareness Of Compassion

(Col 3:12 NIV) Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Jesus Had Compassion For The Multitudes And He Also Had Compassion For The Individual
• A Friendly Church Must Have An Awareness And A Compassion for lost people

• “A true friend is One Who walks in when the rest of the world walks out”
• “A true friend is someone who knows all about you and loves you Anyway”
• **Jesus saw people.** The disciples saw people.
• **Jesus saw shepherd-less sheep.** The disciples saw people.
• **Jesus saw a harvest.** The disciples saw merely people.
• Our Job Is A Huge One: May The Lord Give Us His Heart Of Compassion For Those Who Have Never Heard
  • That We Might Be Friends To The Friendless
  • That We Might Shine The Light On Those In Darkness
• That We Might Offer A Hand Up To Those Who Have Fallen
  • Friends Who Walk In When The Rest Of The World Walks Out

• Lord Give Us Your Heart For Those Who Don’t Know You In Our Homes, Neighborhoods, City, And World