

TOGETHER WITH ONE VOICE

We Are Friends of God

March 22, 2015 - Pastor E. Paul Allen

- **Open in prayer.**
- **Introduction**
 - o What different types of friends do we have in life?
 - o What do you look for in a friend?
 - o Discuss the following statement from Pastor Paul: *Friends, I want to tell you today, there is a Friend who is closer than a brother, He will never leave you or forsake you, He's there when you don't feel too friendly, and He wants to live next to you, with you, and in and through you. His Name is Jesus and because of Him, we are friends of God.*
- **Read Romans 5:8 – 11.**
- **You are a friend of God because of His great love. Receive it!**
- **Read and discuss Romans 5:8.**
 - o What are some great love stories throughout history or entertainment?
 - o What is unique about God's love story with us? (HINT: While we were still sinners.)
 - o Before you measured up, before you cleaned up your act, even when you couldn't measure up, God loved you. What does that say to you about God's character?
 - o When you realize that there's nothing you can do to deserve His great love, how does that change the way you live?
- **You are a friend of God because His Son's blood makes you righteous and free from condemnation. Receive it!**
- **Read and discuss Romans 5:9.**
 - o What do people do to try and be righteous?
 - o How do we become a friend of God?
 - o What does being free from condemnation look like in your daily walk with Christ?
 - o Have you ever experienced what Pastor Paul described as trying to do the right thing, failing, trying again, failing, trying again, failing?
 - o How does the truth of this Scripture change that way of living?
 - o Discuss the statement, *quit trying and start abiding*. How does that play out in your life?
- **You are a friend of God because His Son's death and life transforms you from an enemy into a friend. Receive it!**
- **Read and discuss Romans 5:10.**
 - o Share with your group how God transformed you from an enemy of God to a friend of God. Ask if anyone else wants to share their story.
 - o What are the privileges we receive when we're adopted into God's family?
- **Soul-tattoo: Rejoice in your relationship with God by celebrating communion.**
 - What is the reason for communion/Lord's Supper?
 - How does communion remind us of both Jesus' death and life?
- **Close in prayer. Pray over the Five Characteristics of a Transformer**

Worship	Live a life of worship and receive what Christ did to make you God's friend.
Connect	Thank God for the TC Group you're a part of today.
Serve	Thank God for the opportunities to serve in TC and to live a life of service.
Give	Praise God for the generosity of Transformers and for the lives—yours and others—being changed because of your generosity.
Invite	Pray for the folks you and other Transformers will invite to our Good Friday and Easter services.