

Cultivate - Be A Friend

Greg Wendschlag February 7, 2021

"The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.'" Mt. 11:19

Cultivate: to prepare or develop for use.

Cultivate: To carry on or develop a friendship with the hopes of introducing the person to Jesus.

What keeps you from befriending non-Christian people?

- Desire to spend time with spiritually likeminded people?
- Fear of potentially compromising positions?
- Concern for what others will think of us?
- The traditions of the church forbid you?

3 things every believer can do to cultivate

1. Remove fear through friendship: Reach out first and express joy.

"Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short, he could not see over the crowd. So, he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see Him, since Jesus was coming that way. When Jesus reached the spot, He looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.'" So, he came down at once and welcomed Him gladly." Luke 19:1-6

2. Remove pain through compassion: Serve others.

"When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, He went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. As she stood behind Him at his feet weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. When the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he said to himself, 'If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner.'" Luke 7:36-39

3. Remove mistrust through truth: Encourage others.

"When they kept on questioning Him, He straightened up and said to them, 'Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.'" Again, He stooped down and wrote on the ground. At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she said. 'Then neither do I condemn you,' Jesus declared. 'Go now and leave your life of sin.'" John 8:1-11

"Come, follow Me and I will make you fishers of men." Mark 1:17