



DATE	February 25, 2018
SPEAKER	David Smith
TITLE	Friend Me
SERIES	Whether you're a newlywed or celebrating your golden anniversary, you've probably come to realize that a good marriage requires hard work. Let's talk about what people with healthy marriages know and do to keep their relationship strong.

What do you think of when you hear the word friend? If you are like me, a married couple isn't the first image that comes to mind. Today David challenged that perception by pointing out a Biblical marriage at its core is based on friendship.

1. When was the last time you thought of your spouse as your best friend? How could you start a friendship with your spouse if you have lost that piece of your marriage?
2. What are the top five things your spouse does that drives you crazy?
3. Marriage is about elevating others. As you think about your marriage relationship, is your first reaction to make sure you put your spouse's needs before your own? What areas do you tend to put yourself first?
4. Paul gives specific exhortations in his letter to the Ephesians. Husbands: In what ways do you love your wife like Christ loved the church? Wives: In what ways do you show your husband respect? Both: Have you ever asked the Holy Spirit to do what He said through Paul in these areas? Why or Why not? Do you believe He can give you victory in these areas? Why or Why not?
5. Spiritual transformation is key for a healthy, sustainable marriage. Read and discuss the following passages for ways to strengthen this important foundation: Philippians 1:6; Romans 8:18, 15:14; James 5:16; Galatians 6:1; Hebrews 3:13, 10:24; Matthew 5:23, 18:15
6. How is marriage a metaphor for Christ and the church? Read Ephesians 5:32. Do you see your marriage relationship as a reflection of the relationship between Christ and His church? Why or Why not? What ways does your marriage need to change in order to reflect the relationship between Christ and His church?
7. David identified six specific ways you can be a friend to your spouse. Ask yourself these questions and share some ideas on how to become a better friend with your group:
 - a. Do you make your spouse a priority?
 - b. Do you give your spouse permission to help you become the right kind of person?
 - c. Do you insist that you spouse is heard?
 - d. Do you remove negative verdicts over your spouse by washing them with the water of the Word?
 - e. Do you make an effort to speak their love language? Do you know what their love language is?
 - f. Do you show grace to your spouse?

What if this week you said, "Honey, I want to friend you, would you friend me?"