

**“2 B Friends:
Ready or Not—Here We GROW!”**

www.pmchurch.tv

□ **The Research**

- The British National Child Development Study (a longitudinal study tracking individuals born in the same week in 1958) reported in 2012 that _____ of the men and roughly a _____ of the women said they now have more than _____ friends and relatives they get together with once a month or more.
- Regarding psychological health, these people ranked themselves significantly _____ than the others with less friends.
- The researchers concluded: “Having fewer than _____ friends at age 45 predicted significantly poorer psychological well-being at age 50.”
- The _____ education men had, the more likely they were to have a larger social network—but the opposite was true for women.
- Being _____ was associated with a smaller circle of friends.

□ **The Reason**

- John 15:12-17
 - “[Jesus is] our best and most sympathizing friend.” (5T 201)
 - vv 13, 14 *The Voice*: “[13] There is no greater way to love than to give your life for your friends. [14] You celebrate _____ friendship if you obey this command.”
 - I.e., when you read v 13 and v 14 together, Jesus isn’t so much describing His death the _____ day as He is commanding our willingness to die for our friends _____ day.
 - Craig Keener: John 15:12 “is emphatic that believers must love one another in the same way that Jesus loved them (cf. 13:34), which means dying for their _____, as Jesus would die for them (15:13-14).” (*The Gospel of John* 1004)
- John 15:5
 - Friends and fruit—what do they have in common? You must _____ them both.
 - Because friends and fruit are all about _____.
- Acts 2:38-47
 - 3000 brand new radical followers/disciples of Jesus Christ
 - And how do they GROW? (Acts 2:42)
 - They share _____.
 - They share _____.
 - They share _____.
 - They share _____.
 - Just as Jesus taught in John 15—first, you _____ with Me and then you _____ with each other, and thus you _____.
 - The simple mission of the church in Acts: CONNECT.GROW.SERVE.GO.

□ **The Result**

- Five VIP points about GROW Groups:
 - #1—They are about friendship, not _____.
 - #2—They are about short-term, not _____.
 - #3—They are about “interesting,” not “_____.”
 - #4—They are about growing spiritually *and* _____.
 - #5—They are about growing together, not _____.
- *Desire of Ages*: “Love to man is the earthward manifestation of the love of God. It was to impart this love, to make us children of one family, that the King of glory became one with us. And when His parting words are fulfilled, ‘Love one another, as I have loved you’ (John 15:12); when we love the world as He has loved it, then for us His mission is accomplished. We are fitted for heaven; for we have heaven in our hearts.” (641)

*Friends and fruit
are all about GROW*

40%, third, 6, happier, five, less, single, our, next, any, friends, GROW, growing, the Word, fellowship, food, prayers, connect, connect, grow, intimacy, lifelong, boring, socially, alone

"2 B FRIENDS"

CONNECT CARD

Mr. / Mrs. / Miss / Ms.

Change in contact information

January 12, 2013

Name: _____

Email: _____

1st Time Guest 2nd Time Guest Regular Attender Member

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Best Contact Phone: (____) _____

YOUR AGE GROUP:

Junior High School

Collegiate 20s

30s 40s

50s 60s

70s and up

If guest, how did you hear about PMC? _____

(Flyer, TV, Google search, name of person who invited you, etc.)

Place this card in the offering plate or hand it in at the Welcome Center as you leave.

MY NEXT STEP TODAY IS:

- I want a growing friendship with Jesus that bears fruit for Him.
- I would like to join a GROW Group—please send me the link to the new catalog.
- I would like to join this GROW Group (first 3 choices):
GG# _____ GG# _____ GG# _____

I'M INTERESTED IN:

- Beginning a relationship with Jesus
- Information on baptism
- Information on church membership
- Serving on a team @ PMC
- Receiving Bible studies

Comments, Prayer Requests: _____

Place this card in the offering plate or hand it in at the Welcome Center as you leave.

Feel free to mail this in to:

New Perceptions
Box 0970
Andrews University
Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0970