

(Mark 2:15-17)

1. The Pharisees did not associate with “sinners”.

a. Pharisees were the religious elite.

b. They had created sub-class of people.

2. Conversely, Jesus pursued “sinners” with love and friendship.

a. Jesus specifically called “sinners” to follow him.

b. Jesus was commonly known as a “friend of sinners”.

3. To serve like Christ, we must actively befriend the lost, the outcasts, and the marginalized.

a. Be Christian first and American second.

b. Put aside some Alaskan values.

c. Develop a new perspective of mankind.

For Further Study:

“The Jesus I Never Knew” Phillip Yancey

“The Celtic Way of Evangelism” George Hunter

“The Mark of a Christian” Francis Schaeffer

Cell Group Questions...

1. How would you characterize your friends? Would anyone ever call you a friend of sinners? If you were called a friend of sinners, would you take it as a compliment or an insult?
2. Who would you understand “sinners” to be in Mark 2:17?
3. Who would the Pharisees have identified as “sinners” in Fairbanks?
4. How can we (Bethel Church) be a friend to sinners? (*Remember, you are the church, so speak inclusively!*)