

**TONY INTRO:**

So our questions has been the same throughout the series

**The questions are....** How can I best use good gifts God has given for His glory and Kingdom **and then**  
What are the possible red flags in this pursuit?

Tonight is all about our TRIBES - Tribes represent a few groups...all dealing with relationships.

**WHAT ARE SOME TRIBES YOU MAY HAVE?** (dating, friends, family, GROUPS)

That groups tribes is important...that's band, cheer, sports, academic, clubs.

That's the place you probably spend the most time at honestly.

That's the place where your friendships and even dating relationships seem to come from, I'd think.

**1. Tribes are a gift from God.**

We know this is the case...we experienced it...even in the fighting we know this is true.

The family and friend tribes reminds us that true belonging isn't always sunshine and lollipops right?

We need that pushback, guidance and reminding.

In fact...it's in those tough moments we truly see the worth of these TRIBES. (READ **Proverbs 17:17, 27:6, 27:17**)

But ultimately the truth around our friendship/relationships is this.

No relationship can be all it is created to be without a relationship with God.

We experience this THROUGH CHRIST - **Proverbs 18:24 - John 15:13-15**

Jesus gives us the ultimate example of friendship by laying down his life so we could have life.

By entering into a relationship with him, we open the door to true friendship/relationship with others.

**THE RED FLAG:** Have relationship without every experience the most important relationship.

Try relationships with other people (horizontally) without having a relationship with Christ (vertically)

**2. Tribes hold great influence over you.**

This point makes the last point all the more crucial.

IF our first relationship is not in tact...imagine the impact of all the other relationships in my life.

It's hard enough to walk in this world, pleasing God, while being a follower of Christ.

Imagine the issue when having no plumb line or standard or help.

Stats will say that your friends are the greatest influencers for you as teenagers.

What you say, eat, drink, wear, do is largely because of who you hang with.

**READ THESE VERSES - 1 Cor. 15:33 - Proverbs 12:26 - Proverbs 13:20**

**A key point here is this...as much as you get influenced, you can influence. BUT WHICH WAY?**

**THE RED FLAG:** If you lie with dogs, you're bound to get fleas.

It's nearly impossible to "run with" people without taking on their beliefs.

**3. Tribes reflect the true you.**

Who you hang with when it's totally your call goes a long way in telling the world just who you really are.

Some of you are forced to come to church, school, events and stuff.

But when it's your call...who you hanging out with?

Who that is goes a long way into telling the world who you truly are and who's you truly are.

So the Bible has some help with this: How should I choose those I hang around IF I seek to honor God?

**PROVERBS 1:10-19, 4:14-19**

**The RED FLAG: More of a RED FLAG to those that love you.**

The reality that you participate in the things of God (church, camp, trips) to please everyone but yourself.

The reality is you don't follow Christ and you're living two lives.

\*doesn't mean you can't have different friend groups....but do your friend groups share the main denominator?  
you will always drift to like-minded people.

**MAIN IDEA: Tribes are gifts from God and are meant to push us to love and live Christ.**

Group Questions:

1. What's something that stood out?
2. Which tribe seems to influence you the most?
3. Which red flag is most pressing for you?  
(relationship with Christ - running with wrong crowd - living two lives)
4. What advice would you give to someone who is struggling with pleasing Christ but stuck in a bad tribe?
5. How does Jesus show us how we are to be a true friend? What does that look like for us?