



ESSENTIALS OF SPIRITUAL FRIENDSHIP  
Created for Connection – Part 2  
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The Uniqueness of Friendship

The Discovery of Friendship

The Forging of Friendship

The Power for Friendship

***1. THE UNIQUENESS OF FRIENDSHIP***

*There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.* Proverbs 18.24b

*A friend loves at all times, but a sibling is for adversity.*  
Proverbs 17.17

"Friendship is the least instinctive - the least necessary - of all our loves. It has the least commerce with our physical system. There's nothing throaty about it. Nothing that quickens the pulse or turns you red and pale." - C.S. Lewis

## ***2. THE DISCOVERY OF FRIENDSHIP***

*A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. Proverbs 18.24(ESV)*

“The average Facebook users have 155 friends but would only trust 4 in a crisis.” - Robin Dunbar, Oxford Psychologist

*...perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of one's friend springs from earnest counsel. Proverbs 27.9*

“Friendship does not ask ‘do you love me?’ so much as ‘do you see the same truth?’” – Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another, ‘What! You too? I thought I was the only one.’” – C.S. Lewis

## ***3. THE FORGING OF FRIENDSHIP***

*Constancy, carefulness, candor and counsel*

Constancy



*A friend loves at all times...* Proverbs 17.17a

*A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.* Proverbs 18.24(ESV)

### ☐ Carefulness

*Like one who takes away a garment on a cold day, or like vinegar poured on a wound, is one who sings songs to a heavy heart.* Proverbs 25.20

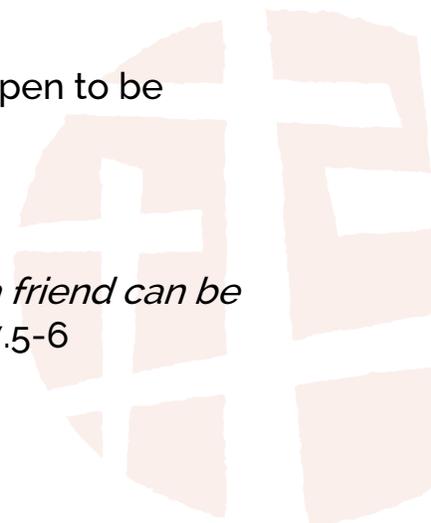
*You're only as happy as your unhappiest child.*

### ☐ Candor

*Better is open rebuke than hidden love, wounds of a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.* Proverbs 27.5-6

"A true friend never gets in your way unless you happen to be going down." – Arnold H. Glasgow

*Better is open rebuke than hidden love, wounds of a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.* Proverbs 27.5-6



"[Concerning] the moral content of classical friendship, its commitment to virtue and mutual improvement, that has been lost. We have ceased to believe that a friend's highest purpose is to summon us to the good by offering moral advice and correction. We practice, instead, the nonjudgmental friendship of unconditional acceptance and support "therapeutic" friendship..." - William Deresiewicz

"Friendship is devolving, in other words, from a relationship to a feeling from something people share to something each of us hugs privately to ourselves in the loneliness of our electronic caves." - William Deresiewicz

*...whoever flatters his neighbors is spreading nets for his feet.* Proverbs 29.5

#### ❑ Counsel

*...the pleasantness of one's friend springs from earnest counsel.* Proverbs 27.9b

***"We're as sick as our secrets."***

***Choose to spend time with people who have important qualities you would like to develop in your own life.***



#### 4. THE POWER OF FRIENDSHIP

*I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.*

John 15:15

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Friendship love is a unique sort of love. It brings something into our lives that we sorely need. Ancient cultures celebrated great friendships and recognized the unique contribution friends play in our emotional, physical and spiritual health. We cannot be wise without meaningful friendships. But, as Pastor Keith pointed out, friendship is often the least prioritized, least celebrated and least valued of all our relationships. Discuss why this is so.
2. The discovery of friendship involves finding others who share our beliefs, values and journey in life. This is the beginning point of all great friendships. Not every relationship where you find commonality with others will blossom into a great friendship. Why is that so? What shared interests are important to you in friendship? In your longest lasting friendship, what are those initial "me, too" moments that brought you together?



3. The four qualities of a great friendship are constancy, carefulness, candor and counsel.
  - a. constancy – they love you for you and are there for you when you need them
  - b. carefulness – there is an emotional vulnerability shared in the relationship and it is protected and valued accordingly
  - c. candor – great friendship always speak the truth in love
  - d. counsel – counsel is the willingness to share the secrets of the heart and to be open to receiving perspective, guidance and direction in our vulnerabilities

How have you seen these qualities played out in your friendships for good or bad? Have you ever been violated in one of these areas by a trusted friend? What did that do to you and how did it affect the relationship?

4. The best security we share as Christ followers is the promise of Christ that He is our friend and has brought us into a relationship where all of these qualities are perfectly fulfilled in Him. Because we have the security net of His friendship love, we can risk loving others in this way knowing if they disappoint us, hurt us or betray us, we have One Who never will. How has the friendship of Christ helped you in your less than perfect friendships? If you've never thought about it in those terms before now, what examples can you think of from Scripture or your own experience where Jesus had modelled these qualities of a great friend?

