

① Epidemic of loneliness today *NYT* article, e  
Your ♥ aches for friendship! *Definitions*

➔ JESUS "FRIEND OF SINNERS" who sticks  
closer than a brother + who creates a  
SOCIETY OF FRIENDS ▶ Meets your ♥'s need

① JESUS CHOOSES YOU + CALLS YOU  
INTO FRIENDSHIP

☰☰ *Matthew 9:9-13*

- ☑ Call of Discipleship ▶ Personal, existential  
allegiance to JESUS = call into friendship!  
*Cf. "called you friends" Jn 15:15*
- ☑ JESUS Chooses disciples ▶ You! "You did  
not choose me, but I chose you" *Jn. 15:16*
- ☑ JESUS Shares meal ▶ Community defining  
+ friendship building *Joel Green... Ryan*
- ☑ Jesus came to befriend sick, hurting,  
outcasts sinners *Mt. 9:13, 11:19 ... Drew Hunter*

BREAKTHRU @ MEN'S PRAYER = Friendship is a  
two-way street. Can try to be a friend but only  
works if they choose you "JESUS PICKED ME" *Frank*

## ② JESUS' REQUIREMENT OF FRIENDS

☰☰ Matthew 11:16-19

- ☑ Context of rejection or acceptance of JESUS Matthew 11
- ☑ Invitation Into childlikeness (vs. 25), the knowledge of Father (27), to rest: "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest..." (28ff)

Requirement? = See your need, A shaped hole, unyielding ache of ♡, sinner in need of salvation  
C.S. Lewis on friends "seeing the same thing"

⇒ → Humble self ▶ JESUS IS ONLY FRIEND WHO WILL ALWAYS LET YOU IN + NEVER LET YOU DOWN! ↓

## ③ JESUS FRIENDSHIP + SOCIETY OF FRIENDS IS REAL

1. He loves you w. an unconditional, sacrificial, costly love ✕ "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." Jn 15:13
2. Jesus draws you close "I have called you friends" (15), into His relationship w. Father (15) ✕ Dad + My Friends, into His Mission (16)

BEYOND WORDS! Friendship w. Triune  $\Theta$   $\blacktriangleright$   
Unconditional love, closeness of affection, revelation  
of Mind +  $\heartsuit$ , mission, being on the "inside"

THIS IS WHAT YOUR  $\heartsuit$  LONGS FOR C.S. Lewis

OK All "Great" but Lewis makes my  
point... I long for real life, in-the-flesh  
friends

### 3. JESUS CREATES A SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

"Peace be to you. The friends greet you. Greet  
the friends, each by name." 3 John 15

How?

1. A command to *agape*, unconditional love, as solid, covenant foundation of society  $\blacktriangleright$  keeps us together in community.  
"Love one another as I have loved you"  
★ SOIL
2. A shared love, truth, beauty = JESUS  
Lewis Definition... Augustine + Alypius  
"glued together by the Love of Christ"
3. A deep soul security of Having a friend that empowers us to risk friendship, pursue, climb down ladder, etc.