

Abundant Relationships

Abundant Friendships

John 15:12-17

John 15:15 (ESV) — No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

The MEASURE of our friendship with JESUS dictates the ABUNDANCE of our friendship with OTHERS!

1. The INITIATION of Abundant Friendships

John 15:13–14 (ESV) — Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.

John 15:16 (ESV) — You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

John 15:4–5 (ESV) — Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Psalm 25:14 (ESV) — The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant.

Matthew 13:10–11 (ESV) — Then the disciples came and said to him, “Why do you speak to them in parables?” And he answered them, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.

Genesis 2:18a (ESV) — Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone ...”

- **58% of Americans report feeling lonely consistently.**
- **Loneliness is a root cause and contributor to many epidemics sweeping the world today, from alcohol and drug addiction to violence to depression and anxiety.**
- **Loneliness increases the risk of premature death by approximately 26%, which is comparable to smoking 15 cigarettes a day and more dangerous than obesity, lack of physical activity, and air pollution.**
- **The Aspen Institute reports that lonely people are more likely become ill, experience cognitive decline, and die earlier.**

- **People in their 20s have the highest rates of loneliness and another peak occurs in the 40s while people in their 60s have the lowest loneliness levels.**

Feeling lonely is when the number of your social connections don't meet your need for emotional intimacy.

The common trait of all loneliness is isolation.

Proverbs 18:24 (ESV) — A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Hebrews 13:5b (ESV) — “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

What is the difference between regular friendships and abundant friendships?

Friendship happens where there exists EMOTIONAL connection and GENUINE affection.

Abundant friendship happens where there exists KINGDOM connection and SPIRITUAL affection.

2. The INGREDIENTS of Abundant Friendships

- **Loving others through the power of the Spirit**

John 15:12 (ESV) — This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

- **Finding ways to serve others with the love of Jesus**

John 15:13 (ESV) — Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

- **Releasing the life of God within you into the lives of others**

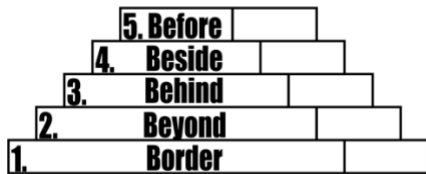
John 15:15 (ESV) — No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

- **Challenging others to rise up into their God-given purposes**

John 15:16 (ESV) — You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

3. The INCORPORATION of Abundant Friendships

Five Levels of Abundant Friendships



Five Levels of Abundant Friendships



Proverbs 17:17 (ESV) — A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

1 Corinthians 15:33 (ESV) — Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.”

Five Levels of Abundant Friendships



Proverbs 27:17 (NLT) — As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.

Five Levels of Abundant Friendships

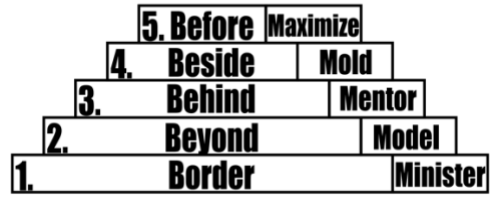


Five Levels of Abundant Friendships



Ecclesiastes 4:9–10 (ESV) — Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!

Five Levels of Abundant Friendships



Exodus 33:11a (ESV) — Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend...

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Abundant Friendships
John 15:12-17**

The _____ of our friendship with _____ dictates
the _____ of our friendship with _____!

1. The _____ of Abundant Friendships

- Friendship happens where there exists _____
connection and _____ affection.
- Abundant friendship happens where there exists
_____ connection and _____ affection.

2. The _____ of Abundant Friendships

- Loving others through the power of the Spirit
- Finding ways to serve others with the love of Jesus
- Releasing the life of God within you into the lives of others
- Challenging others to rise up into their God-given purposes

3. The _____ of Abundant Friendships

Five Levels of Abundant Friendships

