

BOGUS

pseudo

FAKE

phony

spurious

RECAPTURING

AUTHENTIC  
APOSTOLIC

CHRISTIANITY

PART 2

counterfeit

DELUSIVE

ungenuine

imitation

crook

pretender

fraud

ARTIFICIAL





# *Recapturing Authentic Apostolic Christianity*

PART 2

There's a *difference* between attracting a crowd  
and establishing a church.

The church is not built primarily on meetings but  
*relationships.*



# *Recapturing Authentic Apostolic Christianity*

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Authentic New Testament Christianity is not a meeting to attend but a life to be shared.

*It is a community of imperfect people learning to live a new life in a new way to the glory of God.*



# *Recapturing Authentic Apostolic Christianity*

PART 2

## **C.A.R.E**

**C**onnect--*intentional contact*

**A**vailability--*communicate it.*

**R**emember--*prayer, names, events, etc.*

**E**xample--*servanthood.*



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**Loneliness has long been a popular theme in songs. Remember this classic from The Beatles?...**



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***"Eleanor Rigby picks up the rice in the church  
where a wedding has been  
Lives in a dream  
Waits at the window, wearing the face that  
she keeps in a jar by the door  
Who is it for?..."***



# *Recapturing Authentic Apostolic Christianity*

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*...All the lonely people  
Where do they all come from?  
All the lonely people  
Where do they all belong?"*

How about another "golden oldie"  
expressing the same theme:



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**"And in the naked light I saw  
Ten thousand people maybe more  
People talking without speaking  
People hearing without listening  
People writing songs that voices never shared  
No one dared  
Disturb the sound of silence"**





## The 10 Characteristics of Friendship

"No one gives me a passing thought.  
No one will help me; no one cares a bit  
what happens to me" (**Ps. 142:4LB**).



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**"Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their toil. 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" (Eccl. 4:9-10).**



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God intends for us to enjoy strong, meaningful relationships which are the foundation for a strong marriage and church. Let's cultivate a culture where we are not merely distant "**brothers and sisters**" but enjoying *biblical friendship*. We're not merely "**familiar strangers**" but *genuine friends*!



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## 1. Friends Are Few

"A man of many friends comes to ruin." (**Prv. 18:241**).



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## 2. A Friend Lays Down His Life

"Greater love has no man than this,  
that a man lay down his life for his  
friends." (Jn. 15:13)



## *Recapturing Authentic Apostolic Christianity*

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### **3. A Friend Really Knows You**

**"I have called you friends, for all I have heard from my Father I have made known to you." (Jn.15:15)**



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### **4. A Friend Loves Unconditionally**

**"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity."**

**(Prv. 17:17)**



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### **5. A Friend is Available for Counsel**

**"Oil and perfume make the heart glad.  
So a man's counsel is sweet to his  
friend." (Prv. 27:9)**





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## 6. A Friend Speaks the Truth in Love

"Faithful are the wounds of a friend;  
profuse are the kisses of an enemy."

**(Prv. 27:6)**



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## 7. A Friend Encourages You

**"For the despairing man there should be kindness from his friend."**

**(Job 6:14)**



## 8. A Friend Will Clash With You

"Iron sharpens iron; so one man sharpens the countenance of his friend." (**Prv. 27:17**)



## 9. A Friend is Sensitive to One's Emotional State

"Like a madman who throws firebrands,  
arrows and death, is the man who  
deceives his friend and says, 'I am only  
joking.' " (**Prv. 26:18-19**)



## 10. A Friend is Loyal

"A whisperer separates close friends."

(Prv. 16:28)

"He who repeats a matter alienates a friend." (Prv. 17:9)



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**DO YOU DESIRE FRIENDSHIPS  
LIKE THESE?**



## *Recapturing Authentic Apostolic Christianity*

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**"What draws people to be friends is that they see the same truth and share it." --C.S. Lewis**



# *Recapturing Authentic Apostolic Christianity*

PART 2

**"So whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them."**

**(Matt. 7:12)**





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- Jesus, "a friend who sticks closer than a brother." (**Prv. 18:24**)