

# Vision Sunday 2019: **Friendship**

Pastor Bryan Keith Dugger - 01/06/2019



## I. **Surrounded**

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## II. **The Nature Of Friendship**

John 15:12-17

v. 12-15

Servants To Friends

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v. 16-17

Friends & Partners

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## III. **Friendship's Reward**

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

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## IV. **Connected**

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## **Personal Reflection**

*Take time this week to pray & respond to the following:*

*Being around people & being connected to people are not the same. One can be present & still be isolated. It is possible to be lonely even in a crowd. Too many churches are little more than groups of like-minded lonely people. If the Church is truly a family, then its members must be connected. The intentional cultivation of friendship is an absolutely essential component of a Great Commission driven church.*

*Friendship is the Lord's gift to humanity. It is the remedy to the condition of isolated loneliness. Humans were created to be in community with one another and the Creator. We need to be connected because love (the greatest commandment) requires a recipient. Everyone needs someone & everyone ought to have someone they can trust.*

*Jesus sacrificed Himself to save His friends. His friends are those that trust Him, serve Him & look forward to being with Him. In Christ, you are chosen & loved because your Savior is also your friend. He wants you to be a friend to others—an ambassador of His love & grace which is perfectly displayed in the Gospel.*

*Do you view friendship as a means to the end of self-satisfaction or do you see it as the ministry it truly is? Are you willing to let others into your life so that God can work through relationships? Are you denying yourself the blessings of friendship out of unwarranted fear or ambivalence?*

*Prayerfully ask God to increase you ability & desire to cultivate friendships—especially with those who are different from you. Thank God for the beautiful diversity of humanity & the opportunity to interact with others. Commit to be a friend-seeker in 2019.*