

Connection Sunday

August 2025

Your best friends cannot be, Me, Myself, and I

Proverbs 18:1 A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up.

Two are better than one. – how many friends on Facebook?

It's not how many friendships you have, it's how genuine the friendships you have are.

Three things

Three things that people bring into our lives and the same three things that we should bring into the lives of people.

1. Encouragement
2. Correction
3. Direction

Encouragement

Support, strength, inspiration - ***To give courage to; to give or increase confidence.***

1 Thessalonians 3:1-2 Therefore, when we could no longer endure it, we thought it good to be left in Athens alone, and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith,

Establish: to make stable or to place firmly

Peter, I have prayed for you so that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren. (stay rid zo)

Strengthen: to bring strength by coming alongside, to bring comfort.

Right behind comfort is renewed hope, right behind renewed hope is renewed strength. Jesus brings it in... often through people.

Galatians 6:1-2 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Not fix it... just help carry it.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

Don't look at how you were raised, look at how God is.

Correction

Proverbs 10:8 The wise in heart will receive commands, but a prating fool will fall.

IF a friend can't point out a problem without you going into denial or becoming defensive, something is not wrong with your friend, something is wrong with your friend's friend. (you).

I can't believe they said that to me. I can't believe you didn't receive that from them.

The acid test: Is this someone who cares about you, has nothing to gain from confronting you, and would be better off not dealing with the dirt?

Side Note: Friends... please learn to serve bitter food, better.

Matthew 18

Matthew 7:5 "Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

(Not argumentative or obstinate. Don't be proud of being confrontational; be satisfied that you are willing to confront.

Proverbs 27:6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

We will pay coaches and counselors endless amounts of money to tell us what's wrong

Just because something was hard to hear or hurt your feelings doesn't mean the other person was wrong nor does it mean that they were mean.

How you feel about what they said does not determine the value of what they said.

Kind David:

Jonathan - encouragement.

Nathan – correction/preservation

Joab - direction

Direction

Pull over and ask for directions – It's humbling but healthy

1 John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Proverbs 6:20 My son, keep your father's command, and do not forsake the law of your mother.

Kids, receive them.

Parents, are you giving them?

Proverbs 15:2 The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly,

Proverbs 8:33 Hear instruction and be wise, and do not disdain it.

To let go (horse bit) ignore, or avoid. (you know but don't like)

Key Insight

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,

A wise person knows how to set the drag

Fishing vs. Hunting (Take the shot or set the drag)

Let it run for a second

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

Proverbs 18:24 A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

You can justify why you are sharp or sassy and continue as things are, or you can recognize your sinful nature's influence on how you interact with and view people, begin to crucify that part of your life, and experience a renewed, refreshing work of the Spirit in your life and relationships. – **Resting face, it's not on them to get over it, it's on you to fix it!**

Forgiveness, not so much the secret ingredient but certainly a necessary foundation

Forgiveness – what was did was not ok, but I am not going to hold it against you.

Drinking poison, expecting your enemy to die.

I'm just not going to let it fester... mind set on it, resentful, how I speak/in my head.

It wasn't that Jesus needed the blind, or deff, or demon-possessed. They needed Him. You are the body of Christ... not only how God reaches people but for some of you, you may not need more people, but more people need God who is in you and so pause. Look around. Discern the need. And reach out accordingly.

Abraham Friends with God

Isaiah 41:8 “But you, Israel, are My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the descendants of Abraham My friend.”

A friendship is a reciprocal relationship between two people who share a bond of mutual affection. Friends can be described as those who:

- know and understand each other
- like each other
- have shared interests
- want to spend time together
- help and protect each other

Disciples no longer servants but friends

John 15:15 “No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.”

Identified as bondslaves
Related as friends

Matthew 11:28 “Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”