

HOW TO FORGE MEANINGFUL FRIENDSHIPS

Friendology

DEPENDENCY * DIVERSITY * DILIGENCE

Part 3: Challenging Friendships

With our society as divided as ever, we as Jesus followers have the opportunity to model how to cultivate a culture of diverse friendships.

Discussion Questions:

1. Here are some ways people differ. When it comes to each question, which one do you prefer?
Morning person or night owl? • Cake or ice cream? • Book or movie?
Comedy or drama? • Camping in a tent or staying in a cabin?
2. When it comes to weightier topics, do you consider yourself a safe person for people with views that oppose yours? What makes you say that? What would those closest to you say? Would your social media posts over the last year be in agreement with your self-assessment?
3. Share a time when someone you knew shared an important opinion that opposed yours and perhaps even surprised you. Did that opposing view impact your relationship? If so, how?
4. Read **Colossians 3:11–17**. What was Paul telling the Jesus followers in Colossae is the "main thing" in life? How can what he wrote in this passage help Jesus followers navigate hard times in relationships?
5. Is there a relationship you've given up on because of differing views? If so, is it possible you gave up on the relationship prematurely? Why or why not?

Three tips toward diverse, meaningful relationships:

- **Be clear** about what is fundamental to you in life.
- **Be curious** about others' views. Fear and pride are the enemies of curiosity.
- **Be cautious** about letting your emotions cloud your judgment about people.