

Living Truth - Friendship

The practice of friendship

Friendship at Crossway in 2022

Crossway v London v UK

Everything good takes work

"I have no duty to be anyone's Friend and no man in the world has a duty to be mine. No claims, no shadow of necessity. Friendship is unnecessary, like philosophy, like art." CS Lewis, The Four Loves

- What kind of friend?

Aristotle	CS Lewis	Jeffrey Hall	Jennie Allen	Tim Keller
	Acquaintances	Acquaintances	Acquaintances	Acquaintances
	Companions	Casual friends		C
1. ... of utility 2. ... of pleasure			Friends	Village
3. ... of the good	Friend	Close / Best friend	Close Friend	A

- How many hours does it take to make a friend?¹

Acquaintance → Casual friend 40-60h
Acquaintance → Friend 60-80h
Acquaintance → Close friend 200+h

- and you're (probably) not at school / college / university / not 22 any more...

- Life changes and transience mean it will keep being hard work... especially in London?

¹ 'How many hours does it take to make a friend?' Jeffrey A. Hall, Journal of Social and Personal Relationships – via: <https://www.artofmanliness.com/people/relationships/how-long-does-it-take-to-make-friends-podcast/>

- But it's worth it

"Without friends, no one would choose to live, though he possessed all the other goods."
Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics

First, build a village²



- **Discuss: Looking at the levels of relationships, what do your relationships look like right now? Do you have a village? Do you have an inner circle?**
- It won't just happen
- Where to find a village
- Remember God's sovereignty

"In friendship... we think we have chosen our peers. In reality, a few more miles between certain houses, the choice of one university instead of another, posting to different regiments, the accident of a topic being raised or not raised at a first meeting – any of these chances might have kept us apart. But, for a Christian, there are, strictly speaking, no chances. A secret master of the ceremonies has been at work." CS Lewis, The Four Loves

² H/T <https://careynieuwhof.com/episode477/>

Friend Map

1. Identify places and spaces in your life (examples: church, school, work, neighbourhood, etc.) and write them on the top line
2. Think of all the people within each space that you interact with, then think about it in terms of friendship and who you want to get to know better. Write up to 4 names in the boxes below each space.

Crossway				

Who to look for

“Friendship ... can be a school of virtue; but also ... a school of vice. It is ambivalent. It makes good men better and bad men worse.” CS Lewis, The Four Loves

- Walk with the wise
“Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.” Proverbs 13:20

- Look out for the 2-5
“A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” Proverbs 18:24

For a close friend you (probably) need three or more of:

1. Proximity
 2. Vulnerability
 3. Accountability
 4. Mission
 5. Consistency
- Who do you need AND who needs you?

People I need	People who need me

- Not everyone will be a BFF – and that’s OK
“Do not forsake your friend and your father's friend, and do not go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity. Better is a neighbour who is near than a brother who is far away.” Proverbs 27:10

Who to be

- Trustworthy
“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.” Proverbs 17:17
- Truthful
“A man who flatters his neighbour spreads a net for his feet.” Proverbs 29:5
- Teachable
“Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.” Proverbs 27:5-6
 - Love the person more than the friendship

Taking the truth deeper

Pray about the names on your friend map and circle 3-5 people on the whole page to pursue deep relationships with.

Resources:

Drew Hunter – Made for Friendship

Vaughan Roberts - True Friendship

CS Lewis - The Four Loves

Tim Lane & Paul David Tripp - Relationships: A Mess Worth Making

Carey Nieuwhof Leadership Podcast 477: Jennie Allen on the Pain and Promise of Friendship, What to Do When You Naturally Resist Community and How to Find Your People - <https://careynieuwhof.com/episode477/>

Podcast #772: How Long Does It Take to Make Friends (And How Does That Process Work, Anyway)?

<https://www.artofmanliness.com/people/relationships/how-long-does-it-take-to-make-friends-podcast/>

