

# friendship 3

the purpose of friendship

ross van niekerk



Friendship is unnecessary, like philosophy,  
like art...

It has no survival value;  
rather it is one of those things that gives  
value to survival.

- C.S. Lewis

# why preach on friendship?

## God's purpose with relationship

1. God-made
2. God-focus
3. God-revealing
4. God-serving
5. God-shaping

# the benefits of friendship

1. a place of strength
2. a place of support
3. a place of shaping
4. a place of safety

# the qualities of friendship

## 1: loyalty

### proverbs 17:17

A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need.

- seated in the spirit.
- heart attitude.
- verbal culture.
- shows in priority.
- take the fall.

# finding friends

## starts with being a friend

### proverbs 18:24

He who desires a friend must himself prove friendly.

*Finding the right friend begins with being the right friend. - John C. Maxwell*

*The only way to have a friend is to be one. –  
Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Friendship is essentially a partnership.

- Aristotle

## **ecclesiastes 4:9-12**

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil.

For 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!

Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone?

And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him--a threefold cord is not quickly broken.



# God's heart for relationships

## eternal significance vs temporal pleasure

### malachi 2:15

And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.

- life-giving potential,
- inspiration and influence,
- edification and encouragement.

# the purpose of friendship

partnership for the cause of Christ

## matthew 10:1-4

And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority... The names of the twelve apostles are these: Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

**the purpose of friendship**

**partnership for the cause of Christ**

**amos 5:23-24 [NLT]**

Away with your noise hymns of praise! I will not listen to the music of your harps.

Instead, I want to see a mighty flood of justice and an unending river of righteous living.

# friendship for the cause of Christ

## spreading justice

- mercy projects (poor, aged, orphans, outcasts)
- honouring and support of police, hospitals

## spreading righteousness

- ensuring we follow and obey Christ
- spreading of gospel (local and foreign)
- strengthening of churches