

Title: Buddies for life
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30 seconds with my heart

- Whom can I depend upon?
- Who can depend on me?
- Who am I when no one is watching?
- How do others see me?
- Why do I feel so lonely (I don't really know anyone)?
- Why do I feel so disconnected (no one really knows me)?

Why are you dating/wanting to date?

- To have fun?
- To have an adventure?
- To feel better about yourself?
- To have companionship?
- To feel appreciated?
- To feel needed?
- To feel beautiful?
- To have sex?
- To get married?
- To get someone "saved" or into church?
- To "develop their potential"?
- To get away from your family?
- To see if you are compatible (is she/he right person for me)?
- To serve someone else's needs above your own?
- To invest in someone else's marriage?
- To become more like Jesus?
- To reveal the heart and glory of God?
- To honour God?

Foundation for all relationships: connection is core to who we are

- Needing others and being needed
- Trusting others and being trusted
- Loving others and being loved
- Respecting others and being respected

No man is an island

Friendship with the same sex

Proverbs 18:24

²⁴There are friends who pretend to be friends, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

vs.

"When days are dark, friends are few."

Friendship with the opposite sex

1 Timothy 5:1-2

¹Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers, ²older women as mothers, younger as sisters, with all purity.

vs

Opposite-sex relationships are always fraught with pitfalls.

Things I have learnt from girl-friends

- It is OK not to be OK .
- Relationships are more important than sports!
- We can be close without being romantic.
- Girls are not a distraction or a temptation.
- Words are powerful.
- True beauty comes from the inside.
- Trust is a precious gift.
- Sweat the small stuff.

Friendship: more than sentimentality

Proverbs 27:6

⁶Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

Our deepest fear

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

⁹Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. ¹⁰For 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.

"If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!"

A timeless example

Exodus 17:12-13

¹²When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up--one on one side, one on the other--so that his hands remained steady till sunset. ¹³So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword.

Paul's success depended on divine friendships

- Acquilla and Priscilla (Acts 18:3)
- Onesiphorus (2 Timothy 1:16)
- Philemon (Philemon 1:7)
- Titus (2Corinthians 7:6)

Rambo no more

Acts 28:15

¹⁵The brothers there had heard that we were coming, and they traveled as far as the Forum of Appius and the Three Taverns to meet us. At the sight of these men Paul thanked God and was encouraged.

The A-Team of friends

1. The Sponsor (Mordecai) (Esther 4:13-14)

- Someone who sees greatness and purpose in us when we don't see it ourselves.
- All of us desire to have such a friend, how about desiring to be such a friend?

Ester 4:13-14

¹³Then Mordecai told them to return answer to Esther, "Think not that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. ¹⁴For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

Paul

Acts 11:25-26

²⁵Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

2. The affirmer

Paul:

1 Thessalonians 1:4-5

⁴For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake.

1 Thessalonians 1:6-8

⁶You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. ⁷And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. ⁸The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere.

3. The rebuker

Proverbs 27:5-6

⁵Better is open rebuke than hidden love. ⁶Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

- Jesus with Peter (Mark 8:33)
- Paul with Tim. (II Tim)

Jesus with Peter

Mark 8:31-33

³¹And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He spoke this word openly. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. ³³But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, "Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

Only he who is willing to die for his friend, has the right to criticize.

Demonstrate commitment to person as well as commitment to truth.

4. The intercessor

Mark 2:3-5

³Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. ⁴And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. ⁵When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you."

5. The partner that unlocks destiny

Paul and Barnabas

Acts 9:27-28

²⁷But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. ²⁸So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.

Restoring the power of friendship

Psalm 55:12-14

¹²If an enemy were insulting me, I could endure it; if a foe were raising himself against me, I could hide from him. ¹³But it is you, a man like myself, my companion, my close friend, ¹⁴with whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship as we walked with the throng at the house of God.

No greater love

John 15:12-14

¹²This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you.