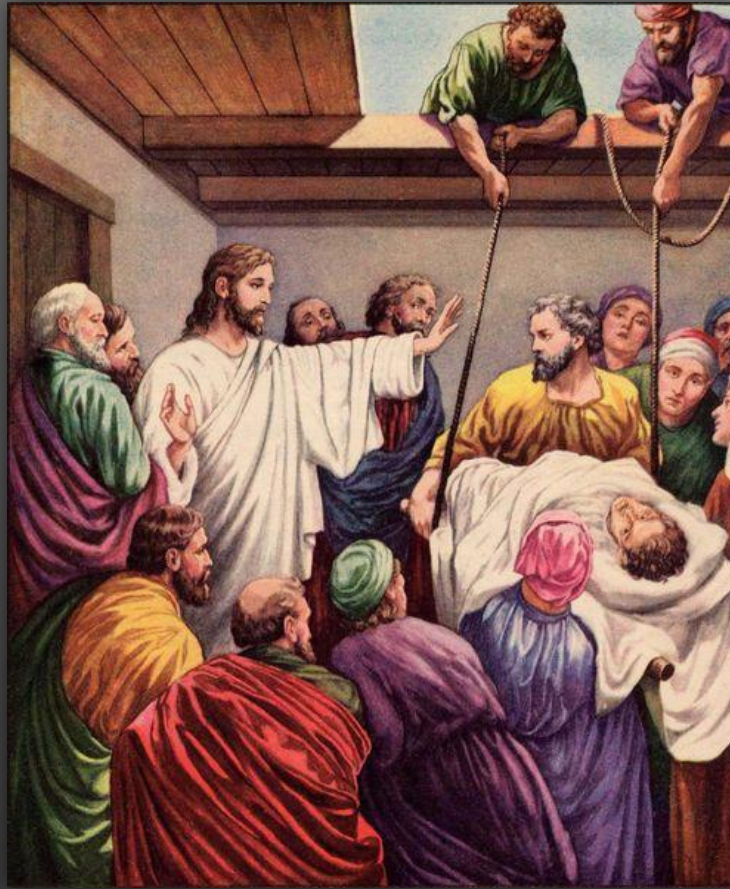
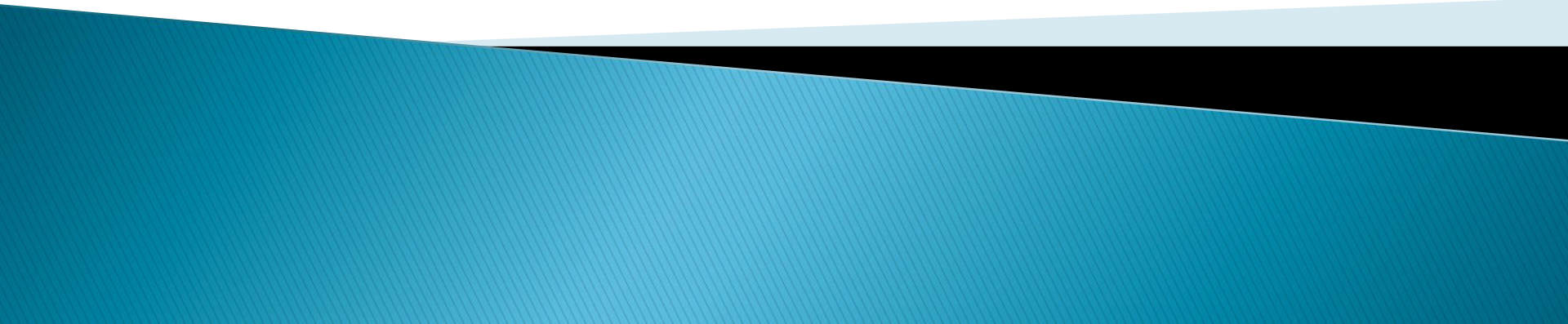




“Then behold, men brought on a bed a man who was paralyzed, whom they sought to bring in and lay before Him.” (Lk. 5:18) >>

The Lost Art of Forming Meaningful Friendships

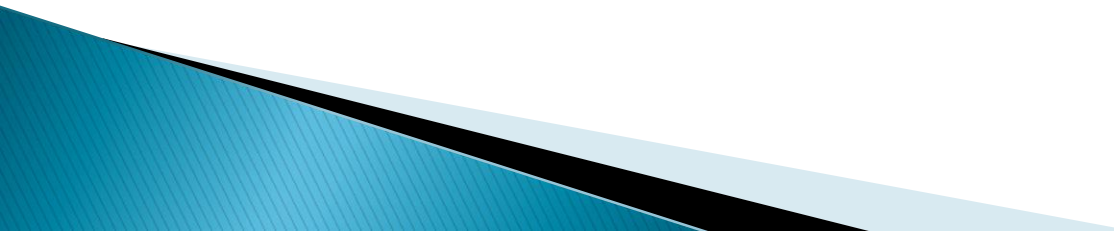
Part 1



Introduction

- ▶ God created man a social being
 - ▶ “And the Lord God said, “ It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.” (Gen. 2:18)
- ▶ God did not intend for us to live in isolation
 - “**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. Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone? Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. **And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.**” (Eccl. 4:9–12)

Outline

- ▶ Types of Relationships
 - ▶ What are friends?
 - ▶ Importance of friends
 - ▶ What are the greatest threats to our friendships?
 - ▶ How to develop true friendships?
 - ▶ What most people want in real friendship?
 - ▶ Toxic friends
 - ▶ How to “unfriend” someone?
- 

Types of Relationships

- ▶ Immediate Family
 - *“Children from broken families were twice as likely to have problems with emotional and physical health, behavior and attainment at school. They were also more likely to suffer from low self-esteem and have difficulties in friendships.”* (Dr John Tripp and Monica Cockett)
- ▶ Extended Family
- ▶ Real Friends
- ▶ Acquaintances
- ▶ Only we have the authority to place people on different intimacy levels.

What are friends?

- ▶ “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.”
(Prov. 17:17)



Add as Friend

Importance of Friends

- ▶ Lifeboat Report 2013 on the Status of Friends in America
 - “Only 25% of Americans say they are truly satisfied with their friendships.”
 - “35% of Seniors say they are extremely satisfied with their friendships. By comparison, only 18% of GenXers (35–49) say they are extremely satisfied.”

FIGURE 1: SATISFACTION WITH FRIENDSHIPS



Importance of Friends

- ▶ Lifeboat Report 2013 (cont)
 - “The more close friends people say they have, the more likely they are to be happy.”
 - 48% as compare to 28% say they would prefer deeper friends over more friends

What are the greatest threats to our friendships?

- ▶ Busyness of Life
- ▶ Invasion of Social Media
- ▶ People are more concerned about their online (virtual) image than reality



How do I develop meaningful friendships?

- ▶ Friendship can only develop and grow face-to-face
 - “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Heb. 10:24–25)



How do I develop meaningful friendships?

- ▶ Trust...with vulnerabilities
 - “Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed.” (Jam. 5:16)
 - We impress people with our strengths, but we connect with our weaknesses
 - “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.” (Jn. 15:15)
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Summary

- ▶ Types of Relationships?
- ▶ What are friends?
- ▶ The importance of Friends
- ▶ What are the greatest threats to our friendships
- ▶ How do I develop true friendship?
- ▶ What most people want in real friendships?
- ▶ Toxic friends
- ▶ How to “unfriend” someone?

Today

Next Week