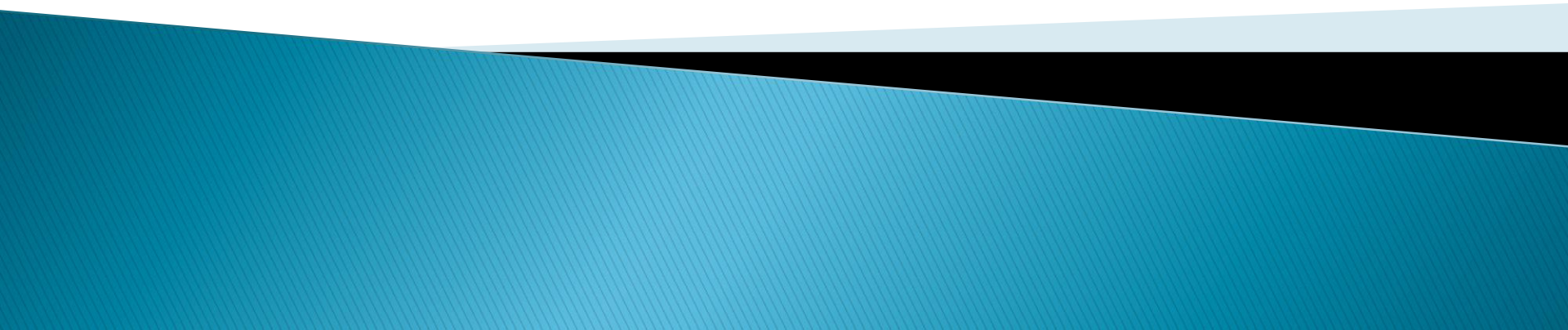


“A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.” (Matt. 12:35)

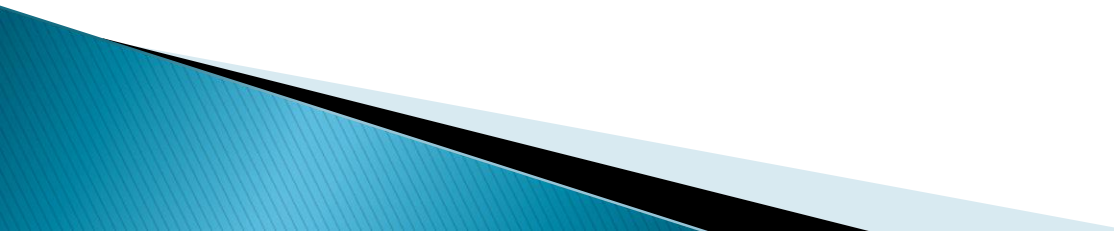


The Lost Art of Forming Meaningful Friendships

Part 2



Review

- ▶ Types of Relationships
 - ▶ What are friends?
 - ▶ Importance of friends
 - ▶ What are the greatest threats to our friendships?
 - ▶ How to develop true friendships?
- 

Part 2

- ▶ What most people want in real friendships?
- ▶ Toxic friends
- ▶ How to “unfriend” someone?

What do most people want in real friends?

▶ Loyalty

- “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.” (Prov. 17:17)
 - “But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want.” (Lk. 15:14)
- ▶ *81% of people said Loyalty is the most important characteristic in a friend* (Lifeboat Report 2013)

What do most people want in real friends?

▶ Honesty

- “Faithful are the wounds of a friend...” (Prov. 27:6)
- “A man who flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet.” (Prov. 29:5)

▶ Sensitivity

- “Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death, Is the man who deceives his neighbor, And says, “I was only joking.” (Prov. 26:18–19)

Potentially Toxic Friends

▶ The Chronic complainers

- “Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world...” (Phil. 2:14–15)
- “A fool will say, ‘I have no friend, And I get no thanks for my good deeds.’” (Sir. 20:16)

Potentially Toxic Friends

▶ The Controller

- Overbearing, forcing their way and opinion upon you regardless of your will

▶ The Tempter

- Encourages you to do things you know you shouldn't and/or things you normally would not do

▶ The Competitor

- “Now I say this, that each of you says, ‘I am of Paul,’ or ‘I am of Apollos,’ or ‘I am of Cephas,’ or ‘I am of Christ.’ Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?”
(1 Cor. 1:12–13)

How to “unfriend” someone?

- ▶ It is extremely difficult to live a righteous life with the wrong friends
 - Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.”
(1 Cor. 15:33)

How to “unfriend” someone?

- ▶ Reconciling Matthew 5:14

- ▶ “You are the light of the world...Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matt. 5:14,16)

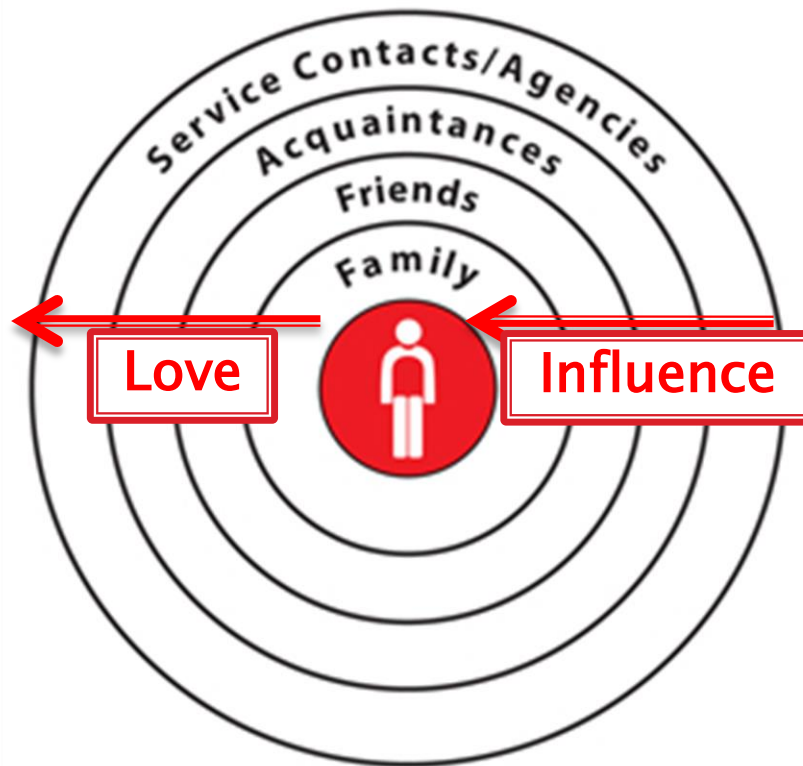
- ▶ Life is a balance



How to “unfriend” someone?

- ▶ Reconciling Matthew 5:14

- ▶ Levels of Intimacy



How to “unfriend” someone?

- ▶ Do not let friends distract you from God’s plan for your life
- ▶ Sometimes we need to REDEFINE our friendships
- ▶ St. Paul with St. Mark
 - “Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark. But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work.” (Acts 15:37–38)
 - ▶ “Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry.” (2 Tim. 4:11)

How to “unfriend” someone?

- ▶ **Sometimes we need to sever friendships**
 - EX: Joseph in Potiphar’s house
 - “But it happened about this time, when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house was inside, that she caught him by his garment, saying, ‘Lie with me.’ But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside.” (Gen. 39:11–12)

Conclusion

- ▶ “He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed.”
(Prov. 13:20)
- ▶ Wisdom of Sirach (6:14–17):
 - 14 “A faithful friend is a strong shelter, And he who finds one finds a treasure.
 - 15 There is nothing that can take the place of a faithful friend, And there is no way to measure his worth.
 - 16 A faithful friend is a medicine of life, And those who fear the Lord will find him.
 - 17 He who fears the Lord guides his friendship rightly, Because as he is, so also is his neighbor.”