

Title: The Blessing of True Friendship II  
Pastor: Fred May  
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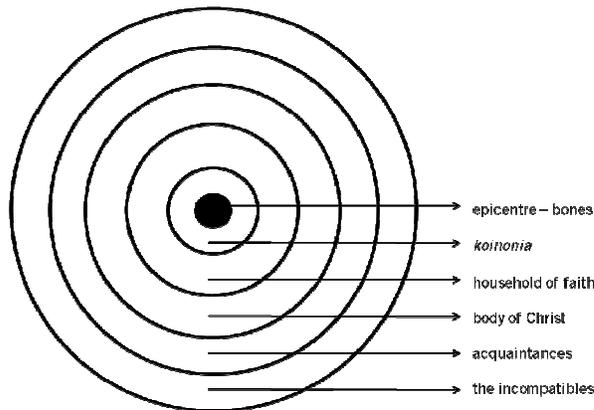
**Proverbs 18:24 RSV**

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

**A. Manage your flight circle**

**Galatians 6:10 NIV**

<sup>10</sup> Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.



Epicentre: me and my “bones” (Genesis 2:24)

- Circle 1: koinonia / fellowship – purpose-driven relationships
- Circle 2: ‘first cousins’  
**Psalm 119:63 NIV**  
<sup>63</sup> I am a friend to all who fear you, to all who follow your precepts.
- Circle 3: wider body
- Circle 4: Acquaintances
- Circle 5: Incompatible / ‘world’

Where difficult: define boundaries on paper (letter) or, personal meeting or both.  
ALWAYS in love and gentleness AND honesty.

**B. Making distinctions**

**Jude 22-23 NKJV**

<sup>22</sup> And on some have compassion, making a distinction; <sup>23</sup> but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

**Jude 22-23 NIV**

<sup>22</sup> Be merciful to those who doubt; <sup>23</sup> snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

### John 10:10

<sup>10</sup> The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

- **Givers**

Approval junkies, rejection, phobics → enablers & accomplices

### Proverbs 19:6 NIV

<sup>6</sup> Many curry favour with a ruler, and everyone is the friend of a man who gives gifts.

### Proverbs 29:25

<sup>25</sup> The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.

- **Takers**

Passive partner

- **User**

Actively self-centred and selfish, demanding (talking most, listening least)

- **Abuser**

Danger of the strong, volatile personality; control-freak; manipulator – anger, threats, flattery; wild promises; melodramatic repentance

### Proverbs 22:24-25

<sup>24</sup> Make no friendship with an angry man, And with a furious man do not go, <sup>25</sup> Lest you learn his ways And set a snare for your soul.

- **Loser**

The terminally distracted / tangent addict

### II Timothy 3:7 AMP

<sup>7</sup> [These weak women will listen to anybody who will teach them]; they are forever inquiring and getting information, but are never able to arrive at a recognition and knowledge of the Truth.

## C. Cultivating *koinonia*

[A Holy Spirit forged unity born out of a commitment to serve God's eternal purpose through obedience]

### 1. Partnering (in serving) purpose

#### Philippians 1:3-5 NIV

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup> In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy <sup>5</sup> because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now

#### Philippians 2:15

<sup>15</sup> 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,

### 2. Affirming

Encourage, comfort, empathy, sympathy

#### Proverbs 27:6, 9, 17

<sup>6</sup> Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

<sup>9</sup> Ointment and perfume delight the heart, And the sweetness of a man's friend gives delight by hearty counsel.

<sup>17</sup> As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

#### Hebrews 10:24 NKJV

<sup>24</sup> And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,

### Hebrews 10:24 AMP

<sup>24</sup> And let us consider and give attentive, continuous care to watching over one another, studying how we may stir up (stimulate and incite) to love and helpful deeds and noble activities

Provoking, NOT competing

## 3. Sacrificial service in practical spiritual, emotional support

### I John 3:16-18

<sup>16</sup> By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. <sup>17</sup> But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? <sup>18</sup> My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

## 4. Covering

### I Peter 4:8

<sup>8</sup> And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

### Proverbs 17:9 NIV

<sup>9</sup> He who covers over an offence promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.

### Job 42:10

<sup>10</sup> And the LORD restored Job's losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.

### James 5:16

<sup>16</sup> Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

## 5. Recovering

### Galatians 6:1-2

<sup>1</sup> Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. <sup>2</sup> Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

- Talk to me, about me, first (not to others)!
- But talk to God about me, before talking to me about God!
- Do it respectfully, honestly, boldly, and compassionately and NEVER anonymously.

## D. Conclusion

### Proverbs 29:25

<sup>25</sup> The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.

Break the snare / emotional or relational trap, through trust: faith, hope & love

### Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

<sup>9</sup> Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor. <sup>10</sup> For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he does not have another to help him.

### I Corinthians 13:13

<sup>13</sup> And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.