

Friendships in a Broken World

Pastor Scott Totten

May 30-31, 2015

A friend should be radical.
They should love you when you're unlovable.
Hug you when you're unhuggable,
And bear with you when you're unbearable.

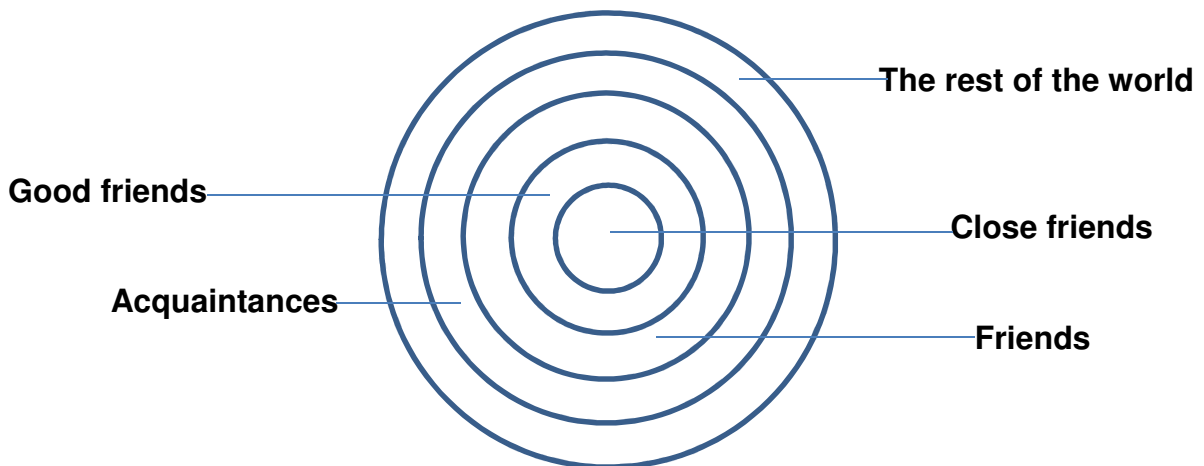
A friend should be fanatical.
They should cheer you when the whole world boos,
Dance when you get good news,
And cry when you cry too.

But most of all, a friend should be mathematical.
They should multiply the joy, divide the sorrow,
Subtract the past, and add to tomorrow,
Calculate the need deep in your heart,
And always be bigger than the sum of all their parts.
-Unknown

Take-Home Truth: Friendship, for better or for worse, affects our walk with God.

1: God desires us to have close friends.

2: Friendships change us, both negatively and positively.



3: Types of people to avoid for close friendships:

The Fool

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline. Proverbs 1:7 (New International Version); See also Proverbs 26:11.

The Gossip

A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid a man who talks too much. Proverbs 20:19 (NIV)

The Hot-Tempered

Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered, ²⁵or you may learn his ways and get yourself ensnared.
Proverbs 22:24-25 (NIV); See also James 1:20.

The Rebellious

Fear the LORD and the king, my son, and do not join with the rebellious, ²²for those two will send sudden destruction upon them, and who knows what calamities they can bring? Proverbs 24:21-22 (NIV)

The Self-Centered

Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. Romans 8:8 (NIV)

The Immoral

Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. 1 Peter 2:11 (NIV)

4: Foundations for Friendships:

Find **common ground/interests**.

Understand the **differences** you have.

Be **truly interested** in others.

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Philippians 2:4 (NIV)

Be **positive**.

A cheerful heart is good medicine, . . . Proverbs 17:22a (NIV)

Be a **giver**.

"... 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Acts 20:35b (NIV)

Be **loyal**.

Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.
Ruth 1:16 (NIV)

Be **authentic**.

Thus you will walk in the ways of good men and keep to the paths of the righteous. For the upright will live in the land, and the blameless will remain in it; . . .
Proverbs 2:20-21 (NIV)

Show **forgiveness**.

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Colossians 3:13 (NIV)