

c) Commit To Praying For Your Friends

- Romans 1:9 – (9) *God knows how often I pray for you. Day and night I bring you and your needs in prayer to God.*
- (See some of Paul’s other prayers for his friends in Ephesians 1:16; Philippians 1:4; Colossians 1:3; 1 Thessalonians 1:2; 2 Thessalonians 1:11; Philemon 1:4)

**5. Pursue An Opportunity To Talk About God**

- a) Turn Your Friends Into Brothers And Sisters
- b) Be Concerned About Your Friend’s Whole Life
- c) How To Pursue Opportunities To Talk To People About God
  - i. Be a good friend
  - ii. Let your friends know that you are a Christian.
  - iii. Pray for them
- 1 Peter 3:15-16 – (15) *“If you are asked about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. (16) But you must do this in a gentle and respectful way.*

**SUMMARY**

- John 15:12-13 – (12) *I command you to love each other in the same way that I loved you. And here is how to measure it. (13) The greatest love is shown when people lay down their lives for their friends.*
  1. Put myself in a position to meet people
  2. Provide encouragement
  3. Play together
  4. Pray specifically for my friends
  5. Pursue an opportunity to talk about God

**Connection – The Power Of A Committed Life**

**Part 3 – Connection With My Friends**

David Hibbert / Sep 20/09 / [www.destinychurch.ca](http://www.destinychurch.ca) / (450) 676-6944

**REVIEW**

- Being fully connected means that our hearts are committed to find their full completion, their full peace, and their full sense of security in God alone, so that He becomes the primary source of strength in my life.
- 2 Chronicles 16:9 – (9) *The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.*

**THE BLESSING OF FRIENDS**

**1. Everyone Needs Friends**

- Genesis 2:18, NIV - *The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. ...”*

**2. The Pain Of Loneliness**

- Proverbs 27:10 – *“Never abandon a friend — either yours or your father's. Then in your time of need, you won't have to ask your relatives for assistance. It is better to go to a neighbor than to a relative who lives far away.”*

## FIVE ACTIONS TO CONNECT WITH FRIENDS

### 1. Put Myself In A Position To Meet People

#### a) You Need More Friends

#### b) Small Groups Facilitate Friendship

- Acts 2:46-47, NIV – “(46) Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. [in the large group]. They broke bread in their homes [in the small group] and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, (47) praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

### 2. Provide Encouragement

#### a) Are You An Encourager Or A Discourager

- 1 Thessalonians 5:11, NIV – (11) Therefore encourage one another and build each other up.

#### b) What’s Your Nickname?

- Acts 4:36, NIV - “Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement)

#### c) How To Be A Barnabas

##### i. Through my words

- Matthew 12:36-37 – (36) I’ll tell you this. You must give an account on judgment day of every idle word you speak. (37) The words you say now reflect your faith and you will either be justified in them or you will be condemned.
- Matthew 12:34, NIV – “... For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.”

##### ii. Acts of kindness

- Ephesians 4:32, NIV – (32) *Be kind and compassionate to one another ...*

##### iii. Just listening.

- James 1:19, NIV – (19) ... *Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak ...*
- Hebrews 3:13, NIV – (13) *But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.*

### 3. Play Together

#### a) Shared Activities

#### b) How Men And Women Connect

- Women – through words
- Men – through shared activities
- Ecclesiastes 8:15 – (15) *So I recommend having fun, because there is nothing better for people to do in this world than to eat, drink, and enjoy life. That way they will experience some happiness along with all the hard work God gives them.*

### 4. Pray Specifically For My Friends

#### a) Pray For Your Friends

- James 5:16, NIV – (16) *Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.*

#### b) Two Benefits Of Praying For Friends

##### i. God Answers Our Prayers

##### ii. Prayer Changes Us

- Philippians 1:4, NIV – (4) *In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy*