

- Investment requires return - No return, no more investment

James 2:23, NIV – “*Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness, and he was called God's friend.*”

3 John 1:4, NIV – “*I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.*”

## 6. Fruitfulness / Multiplication

John 15:5,8,16, NIV – “(5) *I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ... (8) This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. ... (16) You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit -- fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.*”

Genesis 1:28, NIV – “*God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule ...'”*

- Fruitfulness has always been about multiplication
- Every fruit has seeds within it, to multiply itself
- “Success” without a “successor” is really failure!
- You must develop a vision, or a value, that multiplication will be a part of your life

Psalms 92:12-14, NIV – “(12) *The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; (13) planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God. (14) They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green ...*”

- It's not too late to start!

# GROWING INTO SONSHIP

## # 4 – The Friend Stage

David Hibbert – June 19, 2005

### FOUR STAGES OF SPIRITUAL PARENTING:

1. Parent-Child 2. Teacher-Disciple 3. Master-Servant 4. Elder-Friend

### ELDER / FRIEND RELATIONSHIP

#### 1. The Basis Of The Friend Stage Is Disclosure

John 15:15, NIV – “*I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.*”

Philemon 1:12, NIV – “*I [Paul] am sending him [Onesimus] -- who is my very heart -- back to you [Philemon].*”

#### 2. The Pre-requisite For The Friend Stage Is Proven Faithfulness

1 Timothy 1:12, NIV – “*I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service.*”

Luke 12:42, NASB – “*And the Lord said, 'Who then is the faithful and sensible steward, whom his master will put in charge of his servants?'*”

1 Corinthians 4:1-2, NIV – “(1) *So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. (2) Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.*”

2 Timothy 2:2, NIV – “*And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable [faithful] men who will also be qualified to teach others.*”

1 Timothy 5:22, CEV – “*Don't be too quick to accept people into the service of the Lord [in leadership] by placing your hands on them.*”

#### 3. The Outcome Of The Friend Stage Is Releasing Authority

2 Timothy 2:2, NIV – “*And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable [faithful] men who will also be qualified to teach others.*”

- ❑ “Entrust” – “paratithe\_mi” – “To commend, to commit, to entrust, to present to, to set before, to place before”

## DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS FOR FRIENDS

### 1. Confidentiality / Disclosure

John 15:15, NIV – “I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.”

John 2:23-24, NIV – “(23) Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many people saw the miraculous signs he was doing and believed in his name. (24) But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all men.”

Proverbs 12:26, NIV – “A righteous man is cautious [to spy out, explore, investigate] in friendship ...”

### 2. Teachable / Correctable

Proverbs 27:6, NIV – “Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.”

Proverbs 27:9, NIV – “Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of one's friend springs from his earnest counsel.”

Proverbs 15:32, NIV – “He who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever heeds correction gains understanding.”

Proverbs 10:17, NIV – “He who heeds discipline shows the way to life, but whoever ignores correction leads others astray.”

Proverbs 12:1, NIV – “Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid [senseless, immoral].”

Proverbs 13:18, NIV – “He who ignores discipline comes to poverty and shame, but whoever heeds correction is honoured [made “weighty” or given authority].”

Proverbs 15:12, NIV – “A mocker resents correction; he will not consult the wise [the skilled].”

- ❑ Never give authority to someone who refuses correction!

### 3. Loyalty / Commitment

Proverbs 17:17, NIV – “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.”

Proverbs 27:10, NIV – “Do not forsake your friend ...”

Proverbs 18:24, NIV – “A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”

Ecclesiastes 4:10, NIV – “If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!”

1 Samuel 20:42, NIV – “Jonathan said to David, ‘Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the LORD, saying, The LORD is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever.’”

John 15:13, NIV – “Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.”

2 Corinthians 8:5, NIV – “And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will.”

### 4. Intercession For Others

Job 16:20-21, NIV – “(20) My intercessor is my friend as my eyes pour out tears to God; (21) on behalf of a man he pleads with God as a man pleads for his friend.”

1 Samuel 12:23, NIV – “As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by failing to pray for you.”

- ❑ Praying for others is a mark of true Biblical friendship, and also a proof that we understand the obligations of friendship

### 5. Greater Obedience And Trust

John 15:14, NIV – “You are my friends if you do what I command.”

Luke 12:48, NIV – “From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”