



## TODAY'S MESSAGE:

### Friendships

Bob Schwahn | Lead Pastor | June 12, 2022

*Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness..."*

**Genesis 1:26 (NIV)**

*The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." **Genesis 2:18 (NIV)***

*One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. **Proverbs 18:24 (NIV)***

#### TIME:

*A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.*

**Proverbs 17:17 (NIV)**

#### TRANSPARENCY:

*Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy. **Proverbs 28:13 (NIV)***

#### TRUTH:

*Whoever rebukes a person will in the end gain favor rather than one who has a flattering tongue. **Proverbs 28:23 (NIV)***

*Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses. **Proverbs 27:5-6 (NIV)***

#### TENACITY:

*As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another. **Proverbs 27:17 (NIV)***

**A true friend ALWAYS lets you in, NEVER lets you down.**

*My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. 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 15:12-15 (NIV)***



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#### Reflection Questions:

- 1) Who is your 2 AM phone call? Do you have people that you can call at any hour and they will be there for you?
- 2) What has been your greatest challenge when it comes to developing deep and lasting friendships with people? Explain.
- 3) Do you have a regular rhythm of getting time with others that follow Jesus? Why or why not?
- 4) How well do you speak truth and/or receive truth from your friends? What makes this challenging for you? How could you grow in this?
- 5) What prevents us from being totally transparent with our friends? What does lack of transparency cost us in friendships? What is the perceived "risk" of being transparent with our lives?
- 6) Why do we often fear and/or shy away from conflict in relationships? How can conflict handled well be a catalyst for deeper friendships? Share an example of this in your life.
- 7) What is your next step in building a meaningful relationship with someone in God's family? Is there someone you feel nudged to move towards? Is there a relationship you should rekindle that has grown distant?