

Building Friendships That Last
Building Relational Bridges - Part 1 of 9

“It is not good for man to be alone.” Genesis 2:18

I. TYPES OF FRIENDSHIPS

- Casual Friends are the result of circumstances.
- Close Friends are the result of choices.

THEREFORE... I NEED TO CHOOSE MY FRIENDS
CAREFULLY.

II. DETERMINING MY CLOSEST FRIENDSHIP

**“A mirror reflects a man’s face but what he is really like is shown
by the kind of friends he chooses.”** Proverbs 27:19 (GN)

“A righteous man is cautious in friendships...”
Proverbs 12:26

Select close friends who will:

1. Stimulate me mentally.
“He who walks with the wise grows wise.” Proverbs 13:20
“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”
Proverbs 27:17

2. Support me emotionally.
“A friend loves at all times and a brother is born for adversity.”
Proverbs 17:17
“Bear one another’s burdens.” Galatians 6:2

3. Strengthen me spiritually.
“Encourage one another and build each other up.”
1 Thessalonians. 5:11
“Spur one another on toward love and good works.”
Hebrews 10:24

**“I choose as my friends everyone who worships you and follows
your teachings.”** Psalm 119:63 (C.E.V.)

III. HOW TO BUILD FRIENDSHIPS

1. Get Interested In Other People.
“He who wants to have friends must show himself friendly.”
Proverbs 18:24

“An unfriendly man pursues selfish ends.” Proverbs 18:1

2. SMILE.
“A happy heart makes the face cheerful!” Proverbs 15:13
**“...I bring you the most joyful news ever announced, and it is for
everyone!”** Luke 2:10 (LB)

3. Don’t Be A Chronic Complainer.
“Do everything without complaining or arguing...”
Phil. 2:14 (KJV)

4. Accept People Unconditionally.
“Accept each other, just as Christ accepted you.”
Romans 15:7
“A friend loves at all times...” Proverbs 17:17

5. Help People Feel Significant.
“Honor one another above yourself.” Romans 12:10

6. Sympathize.
“Rejoice with those who rejoice. Mourn with those who mourn.”
Romans 12:15

7. Stick With Them In Tough Times.
**“There are ‘friends’ who pretend to be friends, but there is a
friend who sticks closer than a brother.”** Proverbs 18:24 (LB)
**“Two are better than one because if one falls the other lifts him up.
Pity the man who is all by himself when he falls.”**
Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Summer Small Group Launch begins June 1st - 2nd
Small Group Online Directory opens: May 25th