

A Man and His Friends  
Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12 and Proverbs 27: 5-6, 17

Evaluate this statement:

“The most important relationships for the traditional person are their family ties, for the modern person it is their lovers, and for the postmodern person it is their friends – because their family and lovers have let them down” (Dr. Tim Keller).

What is the biggest problem among students at Davidson? What makes Davidson a hard place for people? Are friendships here easy, available, shallow, going places? With all the talk about community and fellowship and connection, why are people falling through the cracks here?

- Great irony of loneliness here → absence of folks who listen, care, know, interested genuinely, confront, confess, celebrate, common vision.
- Individualism comes to fruition

What makes for true friendship?

- Guys hanging out (playing xbox, watching super bowl, survivor)
- Guys on athletic team
- Guys praying and studying Bible together
- Facebook friends and groups
- What is the difference in these things? Companions vs. true friends (brothers).
- Lover vs. Friend: *“yet in some ways nothing is less like a friendship than a love-affair. Lovers are always talking to one another about their love, friends hardly ever talk about their friendship. Lovers are normally face to face, absorbed in each other, friends side by side, absorbed in some common interest. Above all, Eros (while it lasts) is necessarily between two only. But two, far from being the necessary number for friendship, is not even the best. And the reason for this is important: ...In each of my friends there is something that only some other friend can fully bring out. By myself I am not large enough to carry the whole man into activity; I want other lights than my own to show all his facets. Now that Charles is dead, I shall never again see Ronald's reaction to Charles' joke. Far from having more of Ronald, having him “to myself” now that Charles is dead, I have less of Ronald. Hence true friendship is the least jealous of loves. Two friends delight to be joined by a third, and three by a fourth, if only the newcomer is qualified to become a real friend.”*

The Great Tragedy: Those who simply want friends will never really make any! Lewis says, *“That is why those pathetic people who simply “want friends” can never make any. The very condition of having friends is that we should want something else besides friends. Where the truthful answer to the question “Do you see the same truth?” would be “I see nothing and I don't care about the truth, I only want a friend,” no friendship can arise – though affection of course may. There would be nothing for the friendship to be about, and friendship must be about something, even if it were only enthusiasm for dominoes or white mice. Those who have nothing can share nothing, those who are going nowhere can have no fellow travelers.”*

*“You will not find the warrior, the poet, the philosopher, or the Christian by staring in his eyes as if he were your mistress; better fight beside him, read with him, argue with him, pray with him.”*

Read passages Ecclesiastes and Proverbs.

Friends work well together → two better than one. (v. 9)

Friends help each other out in times of need → (v. 10)

Friends offer comfort and understanding → (v. 11)

Friends cushion life's blows → v. 12

Friends galvanize us for crusades that God has called us to

Friends disclose and confront

Friends help to celebrate