

Singleness and the Church
Session 3 - Friendship

Friendship and the Big Story of the Bible

Creation (Genesis 3:8)

Fall (Genesis 3:9-12)

Redemption (Luke 12:4, John 15:13-14)

New Creation (Matthew 22:30)

Friendship in Proverbs

What do the following Proverbs teach us about friendship?

17:17

18:24

27:5-6

27:10

27:17

“We need good friends who will travel the road with us, help us discern the right road to take and spur us on to keep walking down it.”

Vaughan Roberts

“The secret of friendship is just the secret of all spiritual blessings; the way to get is to give... The way to have good friends is to be a good friend.”

Hugh Black

“There is a certain ‘niceness’ to a friendship where I can be, as they say, myself. But what I really need are relationships in which I will be encouraged to become better than myself. Myself needs to grow a little each day. I don’t want to be the myself I was yesterday. I want to be the myself that is developing each day to be more of a Christlike person.”

Gordon McDonald.

“Committed long-term friendships are an important witness to the possibility of real intimacy and relational security outside, or alongside, marriage. Our culture, with its low view of friendship, doubts that this is possible and, for that reason, believes that churches which urge members to uphold the Bible’s teaching and remain celibate, rather than enter a same-sex partnership or a marriage with a non-Christian, are condemning them to a life of unsustainable isolation. That must not and need not be so. Those who face unwanted singleness will experience the pain of an unfulfilled longing for an exclusive sexual relationship with one special person for life, which the Bible reserves for the marriage of a man and a woman, but they need not feel isolated. There may be a loss in being faithful to Christ, but he promises that it will be exceeded by an even great gift...”

Vaughan Roberts

Friendship and Intimacy

Intimacy is not just found in sex and marriage

Friendship is different from marriage

Neither Friendship nor Marriage can satisfy our ultimate longings

Friendship and Me

What is my situation and what is the state of my friendships?

Would I like them to be different? If so, how?

What kind of friend am I?

What things can I plan to do to work towards better friendships?

What things am I going to take away from the last three weeks?