



the art of friendship

April 23, 2017 - Pastor Bruce French



What do meaningful friendships share?

TAKE HOME TRUTH

Principle one:

Meaningful friendships share a _____.
Philippians 1:3-6

As our bond of _____ increases, so our bond
with other _____ increases. *Philippians 1:9-11*

Application one:

Be _____ about God's _____
for friendships.

Principle two:

Meaningful friendships share an _____
_____. *Philippians 1:7-8*

Application two:

Be _____ to infuse _____
into your friendships.

Today's Core Practice:
Biblical Community: "I will fellowship with
other Christians because God has called me to
love and encourage others."
(From Hebrews 10:24-25)



Deeper Connection Study

Paul wrote this letter from prison and sought to encourage the church by expressing his joy of knowing Jesus. He communicates his thanks to this church while also reminding them about their shared mission and the mutual joy derived from it.

Today's Core Practice discussed: **Biblical Community.**

Read Philippians 1:3-11

1. How was the church established in Philippi (Acts 16:6-40)? What things did Paul experience while ministering there (cf. 1 Thess. 2:3)?
2. How does Paul feel about the church at Philippi (vv. 3-8)? Why such fondness?
3. What specific things did Paul mention he prays for concerning this church (vv. 9-11; cf. Eph. 1:17; 1 Thess. 3:12)? How would you want this to happen in your life?
4. How does the church have a partnership [*koinonia*] in the gospel (v. 5)? What does it look like in Paul's day as well as for us today?
5. What is your personal involvement in partnering in the gospel? How does this enable you to develop godly friendships?
6. How can your "love abound more and more with knowledge and all discernment" (v. 9)? How would this affect your relationship with Jesus and others?

PRAYER TO THE POINT: Praise God for Christian friends and partners in the gospel. Ask God to help you live joyfully for Him and proclaim the name of Jesus. Pray for God to use you in your friendships to edify and encourage others.

21st Century Jesus

Philippians 1:3-11



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ore than likely you would agree that the advancement of technology in the last 15 years has changed the face of the society around us. The Internet that used to require hardwiring and a modem to connect to is now accessible through wireless devices that a person holds in her hand. Shopping for clothes and other items that used to require a trip to the mall are obtainable with just the touch of a finger. Additionally a person's ability to communicate has been expanded exponentially. No longer does one's friend have to be near a landline to receive a message. Through texting, tweeting, voicemail, email, Instagram, FaceTime and more a person can be reached. Truly this generation is embedded in the information age! But this begs the question, "Should the essence of God's design for friendships change with the advancement of technology and communication?" To know for sure, one must understand what a meaningful friendship looks like. Hence, our study in Philippians today!