



POWER OF CONNECTION
SEPTEMBER 2023 SERIES

Individuals
POWER OF A FRIENDSHIP

MATTHEW 17:1-9

COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

09-10-23

Matthew 17:1-9 CSB

After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and his brother John and led them up on a high mountain by themselves.

[2] He was transfigured in front of them, and his face shone like the sun; his clothes became as white as the light.

[3] Suddenly, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with him.

[4] Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it's good for us to be here. If you want, I will set up three shelters here: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

[5] While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased. Listen to him!"

[6] When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown and were terrified.

[7] Jesus came up, touched them, and said, "Get up; don't be afraid."

[8] When they looked up they saw no one except Jesus alone.

[9] As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Don't tell anyone about the vision until the Son of Man is raised from the dead."



Acquaintances are individuals with whom you have a basic or casual familiarity, often because you have met them or interacted with them in social or professional settings. Acquaintances typically do not have deep or close personal connections, and your interactions with them are generally limited to polite and surface-level conversations.

Examples of acquaintances:

Coworkers: You may know the names and basic details of many of your colleagues at work, but you may not have significant personal interactions with all of them.

Neighbors: People who live in your neighborhood but with whom you have limited interaction beyond occasional greetings.

Classmates: In a large class or school, you might recognize the faces and perhaps know the names of many of your fellow students, but you may not be close to all of them.

People from social events: You might meet various individuals at parties, gatherings, or events, and while you may have a pleasant conversation, your connection doesn't extend beyond that event.

Service providers: People like your mail carrier, barista at a coffee shop, or cashier at a store are acquaintances because you encounter them regularly but may not know them personally.

Acquaintances are an integral part of our social networks, but they lack the depth of relationships found in close friendships or family connections.

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CASUAL FRIENDS



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Casual friends are individuals with whom you have a slightly deeper level of connection compared to acquaintances. While the relationship is not as close as that of close friends or best friends, casual friends involve more interaction and familiarity, often including shared activities or interests. These friendships are marked by a certain level of comfort and ease in each other's company.

Examples of casual friends:

Workout buddies: You may have friends you see regularly at the gym or during exercise classes. You engage in friendly conversation during workouts but might not have a close personal connection outside of this context.

Colleagues you socialize with occasionally: Some coworkers become casual friends as you share work-related experiences and occasionally meet for lunch or social events.

Neighbors you chat with regularly: While not your closest friends, you have a friendly relationship with neighbors and engage in conversation when you run into each other outside your homes.

Hobby or interest groups: Individuals you meet through shared interests, such as in a book club, gardening club, or a sports league, can become casual friends as you bond over your common passion.

Parents of your children's friends: As your children interact, you may develop friendships with other parents, attending playdates or school events together.

Casual friends provide a level of companionship and social interaction that goes beyond mere acquaintances, but the relationship often remains focused on shared activities or interests rather than deep emotional connection or personal sharing.



Close friends are individuals with whom you share a deeper level of emotional connection, trust, and intimacy compared to acquaintances or casual friends. These relationships often involve a strong sense of loyalty, support, and a history of shared experiences. Close friends are typically the people you turn to in times of need and with whom you can be your authentic self.

Examples of close friends:

Childhood friends: Friends you have known since your early years and have grown up alongside. You share a deep history, and they know you well.

College roommates: Those with whom you lived during your college years often become close friends, as you navigate the challenges and joys of that phase of life together.

Work confidants: Colleagues with whom you've developed a strong bond beyond the workplace, sharing personal stories, and providing emotional support.

Longtime neighbors: Neighbors who have become like family over the years, helping each other through various life events and forming a close-knit community.

Members of a close-knit social group: People with whom you share common interests and regularly spend time, whether it's a group of friends who love hiking together, playing music, or participating in other activities.

Supportive friends during challenging times: Those who stood by your side during difficult periods in your life, offering emotional support and comfort.

Close friends are individuals you can rely on, confide in, and truly connect with on a personal level. They play a significant role in your life, providing companionship, understanding, and a sense of belonging.



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BEST FRIENDS

Best friends are individuals with whom you share the deepest, most intimate, and enduring connections. They are the closest people in your life, often considered like family. Best friends are those you trust implicitly, confide in without hesitation, and who have consistently shown unwavering support and loyalty throughout your life.

Examples of best friends:

Lifelong friends: Those you have known since childhood and have grown up alongside. They have witnessed the different phases of your life, and your bond has only grown stronger over the years.

College roommates or dorm buddies: Some college roommates become more than just friends; they become your closest confidants and partners in navigating the challenges of early adulthood.

Siblings or cousins: In some cases, siblings or cousins can also be best friends, forming a unique and deep bond that comes from sharing family experiences and a lifetime of memories.

"Ride or die" friends: These are the friends who are there for you through thick and thin, no matter the circumstances. They are the ones you can always count on.

Friends who have been through significant life events together: Sharing major life events, such as traveling together, starting a business, or supporting each other through loss or illness, often strengthens the bond between best friends.

Childhood friends with shared interests: Sometimes, you meet your best friend through a shared hobby, interest, or passion, and this common ground deepens your connection.

Friends who have overcome challenges together: Those who have faced adversity, worked through it together, and come out the other side with an even stronger bond.

Best friends are the people you can turn to for anything, with whom you share an unbreakable bond. They are the ones who know you better than anyone else and who have a special place in your heart. These relationships are marked by deep love, trust, and lifelong commitment.



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INTIMATE FRIENDS

Intimate friends are those with whom you share an exceptionally deep and personal connection, often characterized by a high degree of emotional closeness, vulnerability, and mutual understanding. These friendships go beyond the surface and involve a level of trust and intimacy that allows for open sharing of thoughts, feelings, and experiences.

Examples of intimate friends:

- Spouse or boyfriend/girlfriend: Your spouse or boyfriend/girlfriend is typically your most intimate friend, as you share not only your daily life but also your deepest emotions, dreams, and life journey.
- Best friend: While best friends are close, intimate friends within this category often know each other on a profound level, sharing even the most sensitive and personal aspects of their lives.
- Closest family members: Some siblings, parents, or cousins become intimate friends, forming a bond that extends beyond a typical familial relationship.
- Childhood friends turned confidants: Those you've known since childhood and have maintained a connection with over the years, sharing secrets, fears, and dreams with complete trust.
- Supportive mentors or spiritual guides: Sometimes, individuals have intimate friendships with mentors or spiritual guides who provide guidance, wisdom, and emotional support during life's journey.
- Friends with shared life experiences: Friends who have faced similar life challenges, such as overcoming addiction, illness, or loss, often develop deeply intimate friendships as they navigate these experiences together.
- "Soulmates" in friendship: Intimate friends are sometimes referred to as "soulmates" in the realm of friendship because of the profound connection and understanding they share.

Intimate friends are a rare and cherished gift in life. These relationships are marked by unconditional love, unwavering support, and a level of trust that allows for complete vulnerability. They are the individuals you turn to in your most trying moments, and they provide a deep sense of emotional security and companionship.