

## It's Complicated: Friendship

*Anne Donkers*

**Question:** What friendships have you had that you have been crazy, stupid fun with?

**Read** 1 Samuel 18:1

Jesus had many friends. The twelve disciples who were men. But also: **Read** Luke 8:1-3

**Friendship is “a non-romantic relationship that is attachment based rather than function based.”**

Dr.'s Cloud and Townsend

**Read** Genesis 2:18

### **Four types of friendship:**

1. Acquaintances
2. Social Friends
3. Intimate Friends
4. The Epitome of Friends

**Question:** What people in your life are in each of these types of friendship?

Greek “Philia” is the word for friends meaning “Love of friends and equals.”

**Modern day loneliness is not because we need to interact more, it's because we need more intimacy.**

Shasta Nelson, “Friendtimacy”

### **Biblical friendship is a knitting of souls.**

Soul is “Naphesh” meaning “Life force, the seat of emotion and desire.”

**Read** Deuteronomy 6:4,5

Healthy Friendships are:

- Mutually supportive
- Trust and acceptance
- Challenges growth
- Flexible
- Feels good
- Healthy boundaries

Friendships can hurt.

**Read** Matthew 26:23

Even though Judas was going to betray Jesus, He didn't try to change Judas.

Dealing with disappointment:

1. Let it out
2. Get some perspective
3. Know your heart
4. Practice acceptance

**Read** John 15:15; Philippians 2:6-8

**Friendship with God colours all other friendships.**

**Questions:** Are you a friend of God? Do you colour your world with Jesus?

