



## Closer Than a Brother

MBC Mar. 21, 2010 – Pastor Barry R. Mulligan

### ONE-ANOTHER COMMANDS APPLY TO FRIENDSHIPS.

*A man of too many friends comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.* Proverbs 18:24

**The theology of friendship must find its place in a larger theology of COMMUNITY.**

### Background Beliefs:

- We were **CREATED** to be part of a community.
- We must **INVEST** ourselves in our friendships.

**PROVERB** – a general truth, which identifies & speaks to practical, life issues.

### TRUE FRIENDS

Identify the attitudes or behaviors the verse implies or requires of:  
a) me, b) my friend, or c) friendship.

*Do not honor yourself before the king, and do not stand in the place of great men; for it is better for him to say to you, “Come up here,” than to put you lower before a prince.* Proverbs 25:6-7

*Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.* Ephesians 5:21

### ATTITUDE/BEHAVIOR – demonstrate HUMILITY

— *Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; someone else, and not your own lips.* Proverbs 27:2 NAS

### ATTITUDE/BEHAVIOR – graciously ACCEPT another's compliment

— *Like apples of gold in settings of silver is a word spoken in right circumstances.* Proverbs 25:11

### ATTITUDE/BEHAVIOR – COMPLIMENT & encourage her/him

— *Like an earring of gold or an ornament of fine gold is a wise man's rebuke to the ear of the one who listens.* Proverbs 25:12

### ATTITUDE/BEHAVIOR – accept CORRECTION

— *He who hides his transgressions will not succeed, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion. How blessed is the man who always fears, but he who hardens his heart will fall into trouble.* Proverbs 28:13-14

### ATTITUDE/BEHAVIOR – be TRANSPARENT, confess & admit wrongs

— *When you argue your case with your neighbor, do not reveal the secret of another person, otherwise the one who hears it will put you to shame and your (bad) reputation will never go away.* Proverbs 25:9-10

### ATTITUDE/BEHAVIOR – keep CONFLICTS between the two of you, keep a GOOD reputation

— *Don't set foot too frequently in your neighbor's house, lest he become weary of you and hate you.* Proverbs 25:17

### ATTITUDE/BEHAVIOR – PACE your visits, don't be an UNWANTED guest

### LOVE DARE

**Current Friends:** Think of a friend who has had a great impact on your life. Then write a note or call in order to praise him/her for that influence.

**Developing Friends:** Give your friend greater permission to speak to you & help you in the more difficult aspects of true friendship.

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— *As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.* Proverbs 27:17

**ATTITUDE/BEHAVIOR – encourage & challenge one another**  
– to be more like CHRIST!