

# **SMALL GROUP LEADER EQUIP NIGHT**



**COLLEGE PARK CHURCH**

# SMALL GROUP MINISTRY UPDATES

- Hiring
- [CPCSmallGroups.net](http://CPCSmallGroups.net)
- Push in August

*Latest Post*

## Francis Chan on Humility Versus Pride

by Jeff Brown

Humility is the virtue that sustains a relationship. Pride is the disease that erodes every facet of it.



GROUP  
MEMBERS



LEADERS  
& COACHES




RESOURCES  
& MEDIA

# SMALL GROUP MINISTRY UPDATES

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*“Two things are essential in this world—life, and \_\_\_\_\_. Both must be prized highly, and not undervalued.” - Augustine*

*“\_\_\_\_\_ seems as necessary an element of a comfortable existence in this world as fire or water, or even air itself.” – Charles Spurgeon*

*“\_\_\_\_\_ is the greatest of worldly goods. Certainly to me it is the chief happiness of life.” - C.S. Lewis*

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*“Two things are essential in this world—life, and friendship. Both must be prized highly, and not undervalued.” - Augustine*

*“Friendship seems as necessary an element of a comfortable existence in this world as fire or water, or even air itself.” – Charles Spurgeon*

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*“This world is full of sorrow because it is full of sin. It is a dark place. It is a lonely place. It is a disappointing place. The brightest sunbeam in it is a friend. Friendship halves our troubles and doubles our joys.” - J.C. Ryle*

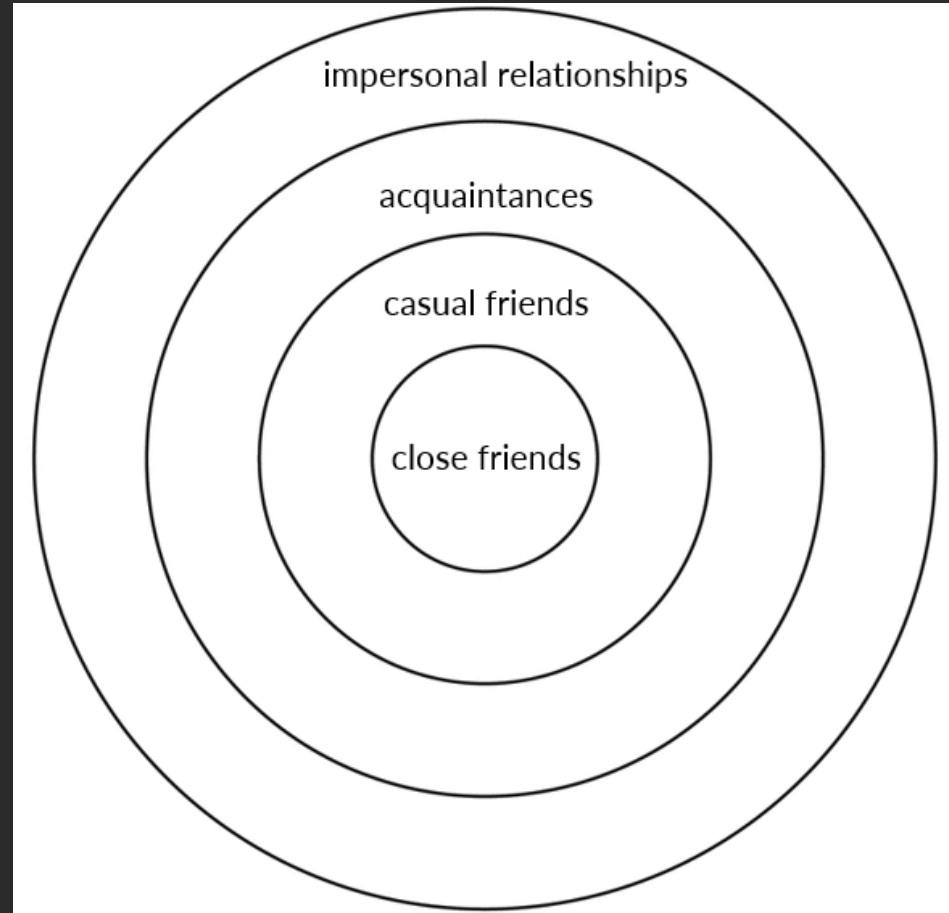


# WHAT IS FRIENDSHIP?

*“A man of many companions may come to ruin,  
but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”*

(Prov. 18:24)

# WHAT IS FRIENDSHIP?



# WHAT IS FRIENDSHIP?

A deep oneness at the core of friendship:

*“...your friend who is as your own soul...”* (Deut. 13:6)

*[T]he soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.* (1 Sam. 18:1)

# WHAT IS FRIENDSHIP?

A Definition:

*Friendship is an affectionate bond forged between two people as they journey through life with openness and trust.*

– Drew Hunter

# WHAT IS FRIENDSHIP?

*“Christian love and true friendship belong together; they are not enemies but friends. We should feel no ultimate tension between the two:*

*Christian love expresses friendliness to all and enjoys friendship with a few.”*

# 6 ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS



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## 1. AFFECTION

We love our friends.

- *for he loved him as his own soul. (1 Sam. 20:17)*
- *And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him (Acts 20:37)*



# 6 ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS

## 2. CONSTANCY

We are committed to our friends.

- *A friend loves at all times...* (Prov. 17:17)
- *Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul.* (1 Sam 18:3)





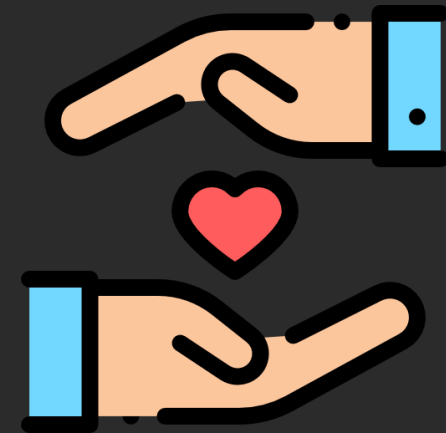
# 6 ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS

## 3. TRANSPARENCY

We let our friends in.

- *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:7)*

*Honesty + Acceptance = Real Friendship*



# 6 ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS

## 4. CANDOR

We talk honestly with our friends.

- *Better is open rebuke  
than hidden love.*

*Faithful are the wounds of a friend;  
profuse are the kisses of an enemy.*

(Prov. 27:5-6)



# 6 ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS

## 5. EMPATHY

We seek to understand our friends.

- *Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (Gal. 6:2)*
- *Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. (Rom. 12:15)*



# 6 ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS

## 6. TRUST

We keep a friend's confidence.

- *A dishonest man spreads strife,  
and a whisperer separates close friends. (Prov 16:28)*



# 6 ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS

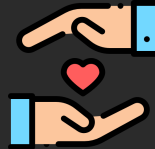
1. AFFECTION



2. CONSTANCY



3. TRANSPARENCY



4. CANDOR



5. EMPATHY



6. TRUST



# BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

## BEFORE CREATION: THE TRIUNE FRIENDSHIP

*“Father ... you loved me before the foundation of the world.”*  
(John 17:24)

*“I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”* (John 17:26)

# BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

## CREATION: FRIENDS ARE GOOD

*Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." (Gen 2:18)*

*"God made us in such a way that we cannot enjoy paradise without friends." – Tim Keller*

# BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

## SIN: FRIENDSHIP BROKEN

*And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day,*

*and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. (Gen 3:8)*



# BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

## COVENANT-MAKERS: GOD'S FRIENDS

- Enoch: *“Enoch walked with God...”* (Gen 5:24)
- Noah: *“Noah walked with God.”* (Gen 6:9)
- Abraham: *“the offspring of Abraham, my friend”* (Isa. 41:8)
- Moses: *“Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.”* (Exod. 33:11)

# BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

## ISRAEL: NOT GOD'S FRIENDS

*Put no trust in a neighbor;  
have no confidence in a friend (Micah 7:5)*

# BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

## JESUS: CALLS US FRIENDS

*“No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends...” (John 15:15)*


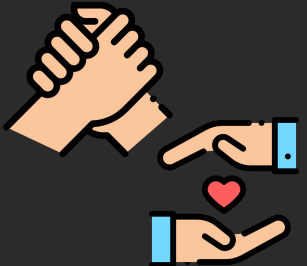



*“Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13)*

# BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

## JESUS: CALLS US FRIENDS

*“A new commandment I give to you,  
that you love one another: just as I have loved you [as friends!],  
you also are to love one another.” (John 13:34)*

# JESUS: THE GREATEST FRIEND

1. AFFECTION: “greater love” (John 15:13) 
2. CONSTANCY: “to the end” (Jn 13:1; Matt. 28:20) 
3. TRANSPARENCY: “all heard” (John 15:15) 
4. CANDOR: “cuts to the heart” (Acts 2:37) 
5. EMPATHY: “sympathizes” (Heb. 4:15) 
6. TRUSTWORTHINESS: “no condemnation” (Rom 8:1)

# DISCUSSION BREAKOUT



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# 1-SENTENCE DEFINITION OF FRIENDSHIP

“Friendship is...”

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# **IS YOUR SMALL GROUP FRIENDS RIGHT NOW?**

Why do you think so? How would you rate your group at this (1-10)?

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# HOW CAN YOU BE A “FRIEND” TO THOSE IN YOUR SMALL GROUP?

What's working?

Share 1 thing as a Table

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# **WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE FOR YOUR SMALL GROUP TO BE FRIENDS WITH ONE ANOTHER?**

Share 1-2 things from the Table

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# HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR SMALL GROUP MOVE IN THIS DIRECTION THIS YEAR?

Continue something that's working?  
(Each Leader will have something different)  
Share 2 things from the Table

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# PRAYER



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# GIVEAWAYS



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