

NEW COVENANT CHURCH



What is
A FRIEND?

*A friend loves at all times,
and a brother is born for adversity.*


Proverbs 17:17

PASTOR BRYAN HUDSON, D.Min



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Friends **empower you**, especially when that person has nothing to gain by taking time to do it.

Types of friends include those who:

- 1. Teach and Correct Us:** Parents, Pastors, Ministers, Educators, Coaches
- 2. Mold & Support Us:** Parents, Mentors
- 3. Encourage Us:** Friends, Family, Church Members
- 4. Cover Us:** Spouse / Pastors

Ecclesiastes 4:9

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. 10 For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up. 11 Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; but how can one be warm alone? 12 Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. **and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.**



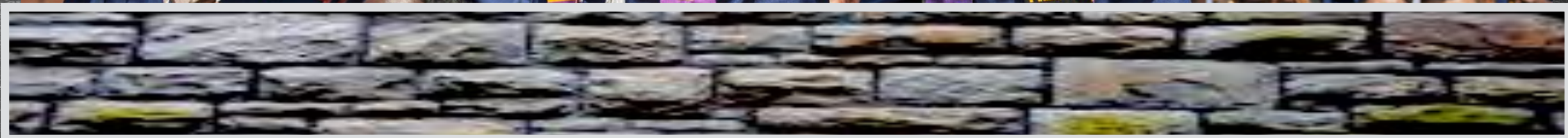
Friendship is a Covenant Issue

- It carries the **burden of responsibility**
- It carries the **blessings of benefits**

Family is Foundational Friendship



Family is Foundational Friendship



We Live on Foundations Laid by Others



Fannie Lou Hamer



Rep. Shirley Chisholm



Vice-President, Kamala Harris



Jesus set the standard of friendship

John 15:13

*Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. 14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. 15 **No longer do I call you servants**, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I **have called you friends**, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.*

Friends are not simply attracted to your “signs.”
(Outward)

Friends are attracted to your “standards.” (Heart)

John 2:23, *Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did. 24 But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men,*



Jesus set the standard of friendship

1. Friends experience the “greatest love,” the love that sacrifices self for the benefit of others.

Jesus set the standard of friendship

2. Friends are comfortable having high expectations of one another. No defensiveness, no hesitation.



Jesus set the standard of friendship

3. All helpful and necessary information is shared between friends.

Jesus set the standard of friendship

4. Discipleship is actually the process of building trust and friendship with God

2 Timothy 2:2, *And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*

Jesus set the standard of friendship

5. Friends will never “**gaslight**” you:

Gaslighting involves intentionally twisting, changing, or otherwise distorting reality to manipulate how others think or feel

Ephesians 4:15

*Instead, **speaking the truth in love**, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.*

Gaslighting Behaviors:

- Minimizing or Making Fun of Feelings
- Discounting Achievements
- Denying Abuse
- Omitting Essential Information
- Showing Inauthentic Concern
- Silently Sabotaging



**The Golden Rule
is the Standard of Covenant/Friendship**

Matthew 7:12 (NLV)

Do for other people whatever you would like to have them do for you.