







DRIFTING TOWARD ISOLATION

- Americans have 33% fewer close friends than 30 years ago.
- People who have nobody to count as a close personal friend have more than doubled.
- Having no one to confide in outside of one's own family has risen from 50% to nearly 90%.

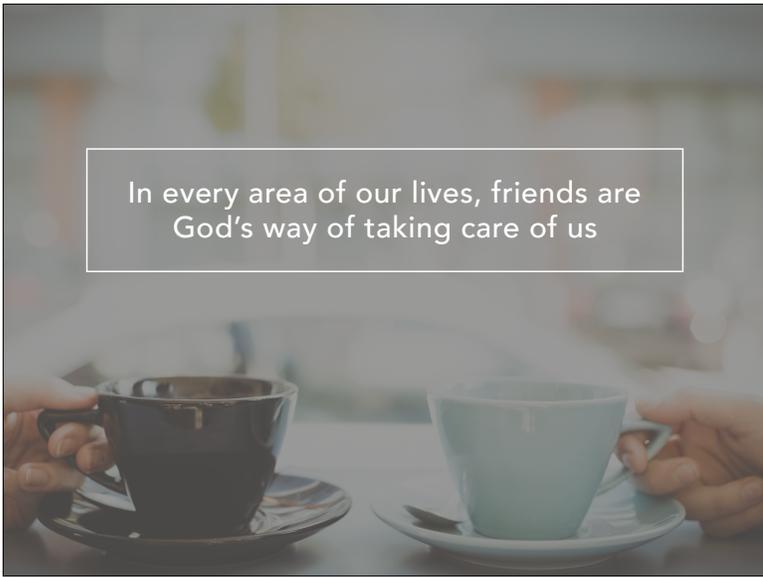
AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL REVIEW

Electronic devices and social media allow us to opt out of relationships: We can live in close proximity to others, yet be perilously distant from them.

◆
**BUT COMMUNITY IS GOD'S BASIC
RULE FOR HUMAN LIFE — AND
THERE IS NO OPT OUT**

BENEFITS OF RELATIONSHIPS

- Professionally, we are more successful and satisfied.
- Emotionally, we navigate stress and crises better.
- Socially, we are more generous, likable and add value to society.
- Physically, we live longer and healthier.



In every area of our lives, friends are God's way of taking care of us



DEVELOPING COMMUNITY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST IS MY PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY.



I can't wait for "the church" to make it happen for me; I can't wait for others to initiate. I must proactively, doggedly pursue redemptive relationships.



A PLACE TO THRIVE

1

I must purposefully pursue friends.

"WALK WITH THE WISE AND YOU'LL BECOME WISE."
PROVERBS 13:20

A PLACE TO THRIVE

2

I must purposely
be a friend.

“THOSE WITH FRIENDS MUST SHOW THEMSELVES FRIENDLY...A
FRIEND THAT STICKS CLOSER THAN A BROTHER.”

PROVERBS 18:24 (KJV)

GET A FRIEND—BE A FRIEND

1

I must get friends
and be a friend that
pursues godliness.

“WHOEVER PURSUES RIGHTEOUSNESS AND LOVE
FINDS LIFE, PROSPERITY AND HONOR.”

PROVERBS 21:21

“DON'T BE MISLED: BAD COMPANY CORRUPTS
GOOD CHARACTER.” 1 CORINTHIANS 15:33



SIMPLE PRAYER

↓
"God, give me a lot of godly friends. And make me one too!"



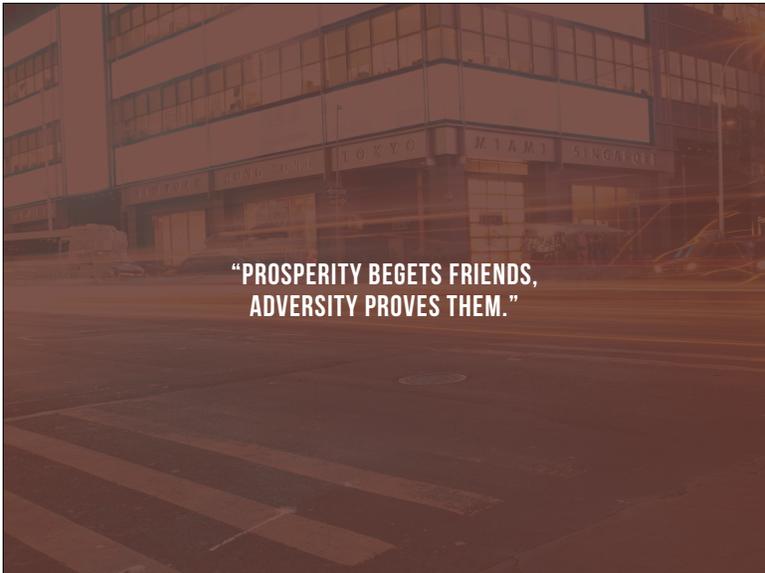
GET A FRIEND—BE A FRIEND

2

I must get a friend
and be a friend that
will endure.

"A FRIEND LOVES AT ALL TIMES, AND A BROTHER IS
BORN FOR ADVERSITY."

PROVERBS 17:17



"PROSPERITY BEGETS FRIENDS,
ADVERSITY PROVES THEM."

GET A FRIEND—BE A FRIEND

3

I must get a friend
and be a friend who
will be honest.

“BETTER AN OPEN REBUKE THAN HIDDEN LOVE.
WOUNDS FROM A FRIEND CAN BE TRUSTED,
BUT AN ENEMY MULTIPLIES KISSES.”

PROVERBS 27:5-6

“LET A RIGHTEOUS MAN STRIKE ME—IT IS A
KINDNESS; LET HIM REBUKE ME — IT IS OIL TO
MY HEAD. MY HEAD WILL NOT REFUSE IT.”

PSALM 141:5

“HE WHO LISTENS TO A LIFE-GIVING REBUKE WILL
BE AT HOME AMONG THE WISE.”

PROVERBS 15:31

“A FRIEND IS ONE WHO WARNS YOU.”

JEWISH PROVERB

“CORRECT THE WISE, AND THEY WILL LOVE YOU.”

PROVERBS 9:8

A PRAYER FOR REPROOF

"Father, help me to embrace your reproof, whether it comes from your Spirit or in circumstances or through people. May gratitude for your love be my first response when you correct me."

**TO LEARN, YOU MUST LOVE DISCIPLINE;
IT IS STUPID TO HATE CORRECTION.**
PROVERBS 12:1

THE BEST FRIENDSHIP

God has made friendship with himself possible through his Son, Jesus Christ.

"I HAVE CALLED YOU FRIENDS, FOR EVERYTHING THAT I LEARNED FROM MY FATHER I HAVE MADE KNOWN TO YOU."
JOHN 15:15

