

**Title:** How Many Of Us Have Them?

**Text:** Genesis 2:18 ESV

**Target:** We are wired for connection not isolation.

### **Barriers to Biblical Friendship:**

Our longing for independence

Our loyalty to family.

Our loop of the past.

### **Biblical friendship requires:**

#### 1. Cost

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

**Question #1:** John 15:13 speaks of laying down one’s life for a friend. What are some practical ways we can sacrificially love our friends today?

**Question #2:** Have you ever had a friend who made a sacrifice for you? How did that impact your relationship

#### 2. Consistency

- a. *A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. -Proverbs 17:17 ESV*

- b. *“A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” -Proverbs 18:24 ESV*

**Question #3:** Proverbs 17:17 says a friend loves at all times. Do you have friendships that have stood the test of time and adversity? What made them last?

**Question #4:** What does it mean to be a “friend who sticks closer than a brother” (Proverbs 18:24)? How can we become that kind of friend?

#### 3. Confrontation

- a. *An open rebuke is better than hidden love! Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy. -Proverbs 27:5-6 NLT* b.

*Whoever rebukes a person will in the end gain favor rather than one who has a flattering tongue. -Proverbs 28:23 NIV*

**Question #5:** Proverbs 27:5-6 says that wounds from a friend are better than kisses from an enemy. Have you ever received a difficult truth from a friend that helped you grow? How did you respond?

**Question #6:** What keeps us from lovingly confronting our friends when we see them heading in the wrong direction?

#### 4. Confidants

a. *Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a thing covered. -Proverbs 11:13 ESV*

b. *Whoever covers an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends. -Proverbs 17:9 ESV*

**Question #7:** What qualities do you look for in a trustworthy friend?

**Question #8:** Have you ever shared something in confidence and had it broken? How did that affect your view of friendship?

**Question #9:** How can we create a culture of trust and accountability in our friendships?

#### 5. Covenant

a. *And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. -1 Samuel 18:3 NIV*

**Question #10:** In 1 Samuel 18:3, Jonathan made a covenant with David. What does it mean to have a covenant friendship today?

**Question #11:** Are there friendships in your life that need to move from casual to committed? How can you be intentional about deepening those relationships?

**Take Away:** Determine which seat your friends sit in and reassign if you need to.

**Question #12:** *Think about your close friendships. Are they helping or hindering your walk with Christ? Do you need to reassess who is in your inner circle?*

**Question #13:** *How can you be a better friend to those around you this week?*