

## JESUS IS THE MODEL FOR FRIENDSHIPS

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### THE ISSUE OF INTIMACY

“You are My friends (philos) if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup> I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends (philos), for everything that I learned from My Father I have made known to you”. John 15:14-15

Friend (philos)—loved or dear; a common commitment of life

Intimacy—no secrets

### FIVE LEVELS OF FRIENDSHIP

**Level 5—Acquaintance.** This is a person whom we really do not know beyond a shallow “Hello, how are you?” But we say the words so often, we actually refer to the person as a friend.

**Level 4—Pals.** These are people we know and with whom we do things but we do not share; there is no great love or intimacy.

**Level 3—Companion.** This level is “Shared Activity”. But there is little vulnerability or sharing of fears. Conflict and challenge are avoided. Character growth is not an issue.

**Level 2—Genuine friendships.** There is a deep affection for and a deep commitment to each other. These friendships can be Christian, but they do not have to be. Men at this level are not afraid to say that they love one another. They strive to help each other grow.

**Level 1—High Performance friendships.** Becoming conformed to the image of Christ is life’s highest motivation. This is friendship on a Spiritual plane. Friends who help us grow spiritually and into closer conformity to Christ are the most intimate and important friends. At this level we share most deeply, most intimately and in a way that challenges both sides of the friendship. Jesus is our example as this is how He lived:

\* To Peter...“Get behind Me, Satan” Matthew 16:23

\* Of Lazarus...“Jesus wept” John 11:35

\* To Peter, James and John...“I am overwhelmed with sorrow to ...death. Stay here and keep watch with Me.” Matthew 26:38

\* To Thomas...“Put your hands in Mine” John 20:27

### Personal Application