

ACC Sermon Series
Jan – Apr 2024
Sex, marriage & singleness

Sermon 7 of 10



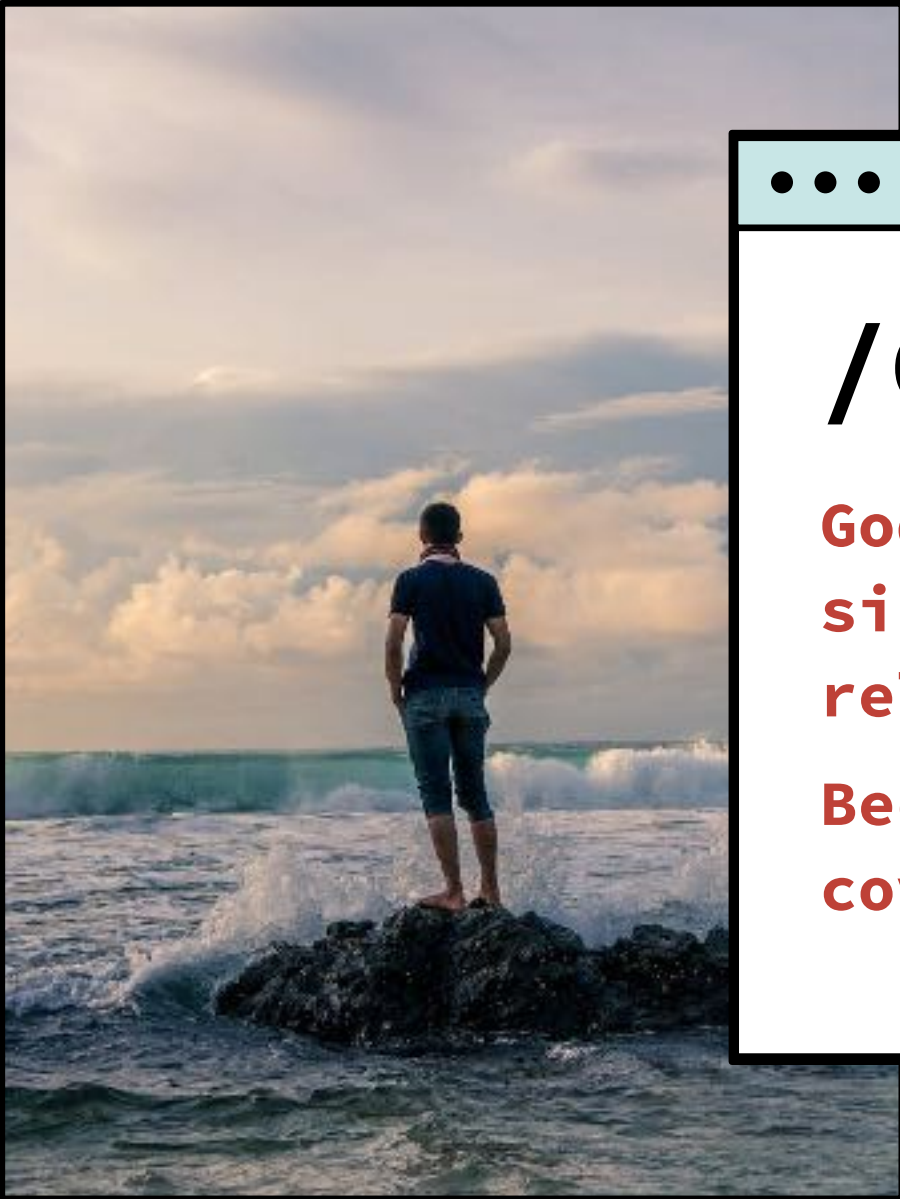
SINGLNESS

[Part 2]

John

15:9-17





/CELIBACY 獨身

God requires Christians who are single to abstain from sexual relations.

Because sex is an expression of covenant love.

Bible: sex is for marriage only

BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW V. SECULAR WORLDVIEW

CHRISTIAN SINGLENESS...

Sex under Christ's Lordship

Celibate; no sex

If no sex: whole & complete

Sex good but not ultimate

Jesus affirmed value of
singleness

Sex points to something
greater and better in future

SECULAR SINGLENESS...

Sex is my right

Can have sex when single

If no sex: weird & strange

Sex is everything

Singleness second best

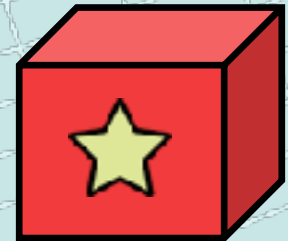
Missing out if not
having sex

/INTIMACY 親密關係

UK culture is confused about sex & intimacy



We all need intimacy
But sex is only one part of intimacy



Sex is not the only form of intimacy..

INTIMACY

Memories Friends Prayer Intellectual
 Kisses Family Sharing Creative
 Laughter God Companions Openness
 Grandparents Hugs Tears
 Bible study Travel
 Meeting of hearts & minds
 Crisis Trust Emotional

SEX
 Man+
 Woman+
 Marriage

THE CHALLENGE:

**In Argyle do we have
the kinds of deep
relationships that
give non-sexual
intimacy?**

If we don't, singles stay lonely



/FRIENDSHIP 友誼

The Bible talks about friendship, e.g.

Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice. Proverbs 27:9

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity. Proverbs 17:17

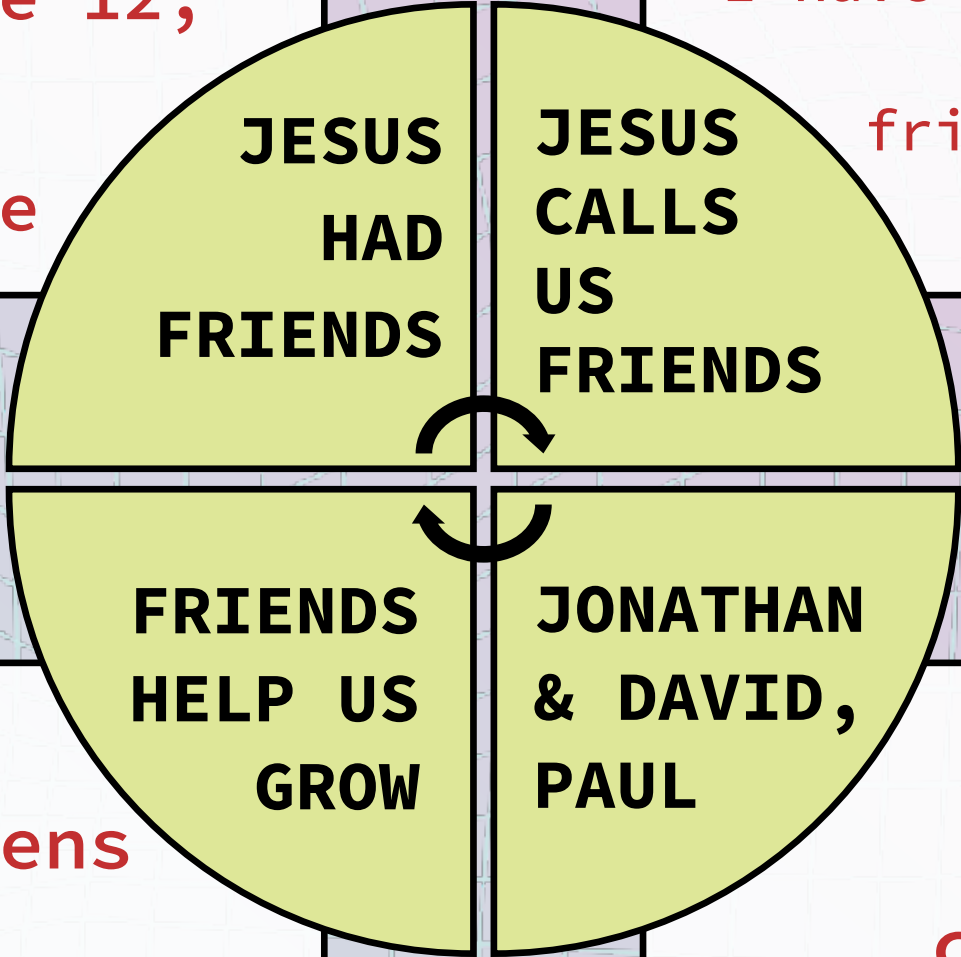


Friendship in the Bible

“He was called God’s friend.” James 2:23

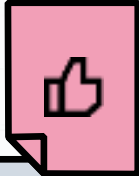


John, the 3, the 12, wider circle



John 15:15 “I have called you friends.”

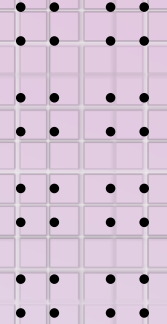
“Iron sharpens iron”, Pr. 27:17

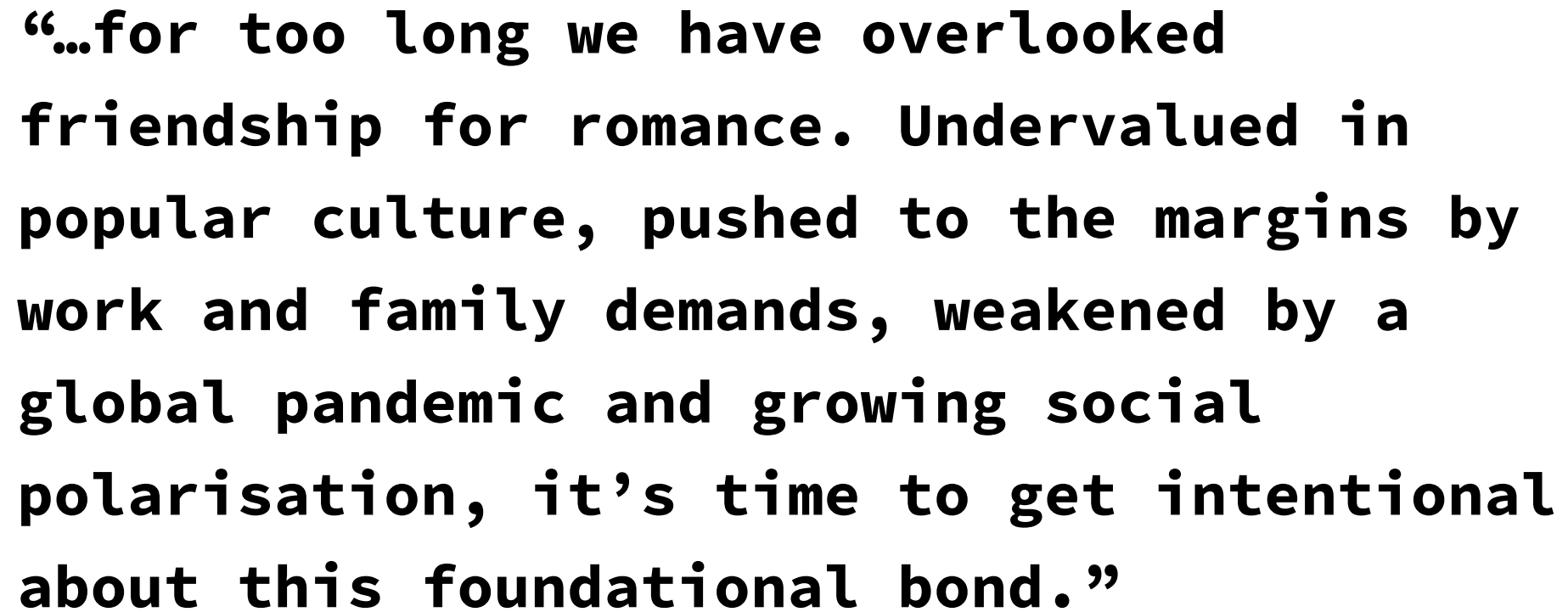


Deep and close friendship

/FRIENDSHIP IS CRUCIAL

- 20% of us have no close friends
- 51% hard to make friends
- Global problem
- 1 in 3 men no close friends
- 40% of 16–25 year olds always or often lonely
- UK government Loneliness Minister





“...for too long we have overlooked friendship for romance. Undervalued in popular culture, pushed to the margins by work and family demands, weakened by a global pandemic and growing social polarisation, it’s time to get intentional about this foundational bond.”

FRIENDSHIP LAB

HOW TO GROW OUR FRIENDSHIPS

- Make time for people
- Share intimacies with your friends
- Persevere!

**Church should be a place
of close and deep
friendship**



Advice from
single pastor
and author
Ed Shaw



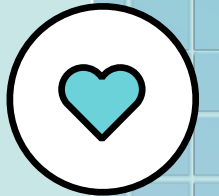
“We need to recover this biblical view of friendship and to cultivate it in our churches. If the only form of intimacy that is available within our churches is within marriage, then our churches will not be healthy.” Sam Allberry

APPLICATION

/For marrieds (to care for singles)



- ▶ Don't assume
- ▶ Don't look down on singles
- ▶ Be hospitable
- ▶ Build friendships



APPLICATION /For singles

Pray & ask God for friends

Be intentional; look for close friends

Work on your friendships

Build non-sexual intimacy in friendships



APPLICATION

/For marrieds & singles

Spiritual aspect of friendships; Sam Allberry

- ▶ Who can I be a spiritual father or mother to?
- ▶ Or spiritual brother or sister?
- ▶ Or son or daughter?



COMMUNION: A TABLE OF FRIENDSHIP



- ▶ Through the body and blood of Christ we are friends of the Most High God!
- ▶ “There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” Pr. 18:24