



Friendship & the Kingdom of God

John 15:9-17

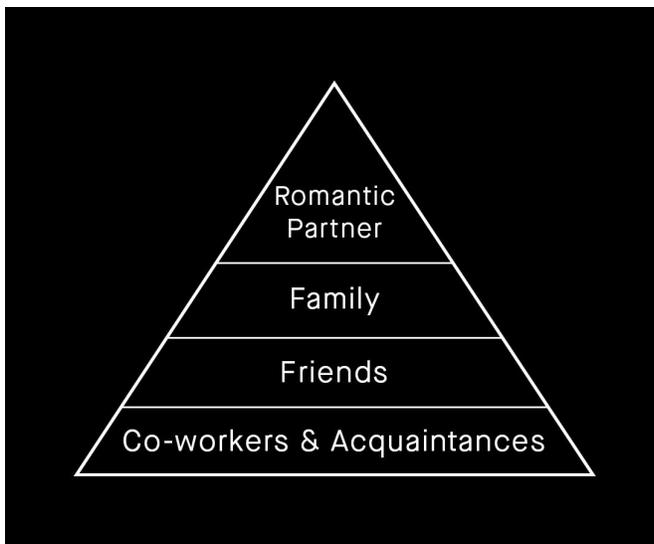
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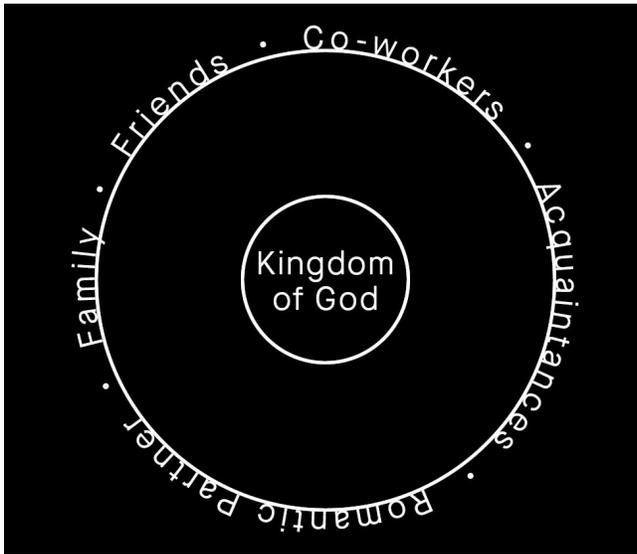
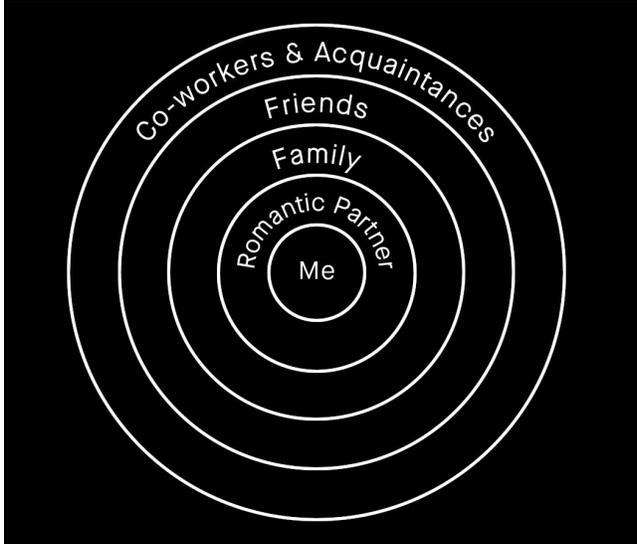
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John 15:9-17

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever

you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command:
Love each other.





John 15:12

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

John 15:15

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

John 15:16

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

Romans 5:8 (ESV)

But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

“The Catholic writer and activist Maggie Gallagher describes two kinds of relationships. To the first she gives the tagline, ‘You’re mine because I love you.’ In this kind of relationship, you and I may belong to a special friendship and share many of the joys that that kind of friendship makes possible. But such joys will last only as long as my love lasts. If I tire of you or am hurt by you, I’m free to walk away – no obligations, no hoops to jump through, no strings attached. You belong to me if I can keep up my love for you, and you can keep yours for me. We thus dance on this precipice of loss. On the other hand, Gallagher talks about a different sort of relationship. To this one she gives a tagline that’s the inverse of her first: ‘I love you because you’re mine.’ In this latter type of friendship, my love for you isn’t the basis of our connection. It’s the other way around: we are bound to each other, and therefore I love you. You may still bore me or wound me or otherwise become unattractive to me, but that doesn’t mean I’ll walk away. You’re not mine because I love you; I love you because you’re – already and always – mine.”

- Wesley Hill, *Spiritual Friendship*

Romans 12:5b (NLT)

We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

“What drives the idolatry for romantic love is the desire for permanence from another person that only God can give. The engine of idolatry is trying to search for permanence where it can not be found...there are moments of sensing that permanence in another, in the kingdom, where we are fulfilled, but ultimately God can only be that permanence.”

- David Bennett

John 15:13-14

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command.