

Finding Your God Buddy

Live Stream 5/23/2020



The biggest challenges for men today include: _____, _____, _____, and Work-life Balance... But, is there such a thing?

The Bigger Problem: _____ and _____.

_____ & _____ leads to isolation and loneliness, especially for men.

My story of "UN"-balance and Finding a Men's Group

The Biblical Case for GBs

- Genesis 2:18 *God said, "It is not good for man to be alone."*
- Galatians 6:2 *"Bear one another's burdens..."*
- Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, 12 *"Two are better than one... A cord of three strands is not broken."*
- John 15:13 *"Greater love has no one than that someone who lays down his life for his friends."*
- 1 Thessalonians 5:11 *"Encourage one another and build one another up."*
- Proverbs (numerous)

As iron sharpens iron, so one man shall sharpen another. --Proverbs 27:17

Examples of GBs in the Bible:

- Jesus and the Disciples (His "inner circle")
- Timothy, Barnabas, and Paul (mentee-mentor-peer)
- David and Jonathan (loyalty and intimacy between men)
- Ruth and Naomi (support of family issues)
- Jethro and Moses (passing on wisdom)

My "GB", Bill Johnson and my other God Buddies (Timothy's, Barnabas')

The Genesis of God Buddies

"Friendship ... is born at the moment when one man says to another: "What! You too? I thought that no one but myself..." --C. S. Lewis

Where Did All My Friends Go?

- Childhood & School Buddies
- Fraternity Brothers at College
- Young Adult Friends
- Associations as Couples

We've lost our closest friends and need some God Buddies!

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Why do some men have difficulty making friendships?

The _____ we hide behind keeps us from becoming _____ men.

When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. --1 Corinthians 13:11

How Many Friends Can You Really Have? Dunbar's Number = _____.

But you can / should only really have ___ close friends.

Barriers to Friendships:

1. Aversion to showing _____.
2. Inherent inability to _____.
3. Inadequate _____.
4. Male _____.
5. Inability to _____ for _____.
6. Incorrect _____.

Making & Keeping Friends: Why is it so hard?

1. _____ to overcome the _____ of deepening your friendships.
2. Start by finding _____ with another guy.
3. Be a _____ friend... but don't be _____!
4. Become _____.
5. Be open to _____.

Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy. --Proverbs 27:6

6. Be _____.

"Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working." --James 5:16

7. Meet _____.
8. Stick with it!

One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. --Proverbs 18:24

Next Steps:

- Friendship Assessment: Who's your inner circle?
- Find a men's group (at church), 4th Day Group (Great Banquet), or local Meet-up (hobbies & interests)
- Sign-up to get God-Buddy blog posts

Q&A