

Friendship - Pathway to Growth
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Russell Cook
West End Church of Christ
Knoxville, TN

1. Having close friends can be a difficult thing these days.
 2. In Psalms, King David writes about this experience. (**Psalm 41:9, 55:12-14**)
 3. This morning, I want you to be able to say, "I wish I had a friend like that."
 - a. The Bible is not silent here.
 - b. **Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**
- I. Help Your Friends Succeed In Life. “Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work.” (Ecclesiastes 4:9)**
- A. These wise words of Solomon may reveal why we don't always make good friendships.
 - B. Pray for your friends.
 - C. Encourage them.
- II. Help Your Friends When They Fall. “If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!” (Ecclesiastes 4:10)**
- A. Why should you pick up your fallen friends?
 1. **“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.” (Proverbs 17:17)**
 - B. Your children are watching your example.
 - C. In order to serve Christ, you need to serve others.
 1. **Galatians 6:2; Philippians 2:4; 1 Thessalonians 5:11**
- III. Be Warm To Your Friends In The Cold Times Of Life. “Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone?” (Ecclesiastes 4:11)**
- A. There are a lot of times in life when folks need a friend.
 - B. Be generous with encouragement, and stingy with criticism.
 1. **Proverbs 27:5-6; Ephesians 4:31-32**
- IV. Stand Up For Your Friends. “Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not easily broken.” (Ecclesiastes 4:12)**
- A. This shows that real friendship is proven by what we do, not just what we say.
 - B. Be willing to risk what others think.