



## Part 2 – Sisters and Brothers

BFF, a text message acronym for “Best Friends Forever”

It's quite simple. People's most basic need in life is relationship. People connected to other people thrive and grow, and those not connected wither and die.

~ Dr. Henry Cloud

The deepest urge in every human heart is to be in relationship with someone who absolutely delights in us.

~ Larry Crabb, Psychologist

We will reshape, redesign, and remake ourselves to be part of a broader community. We will go great lengths and great pain to become insiders.... In the end, we are all tribal. We are created by a relational God for relationship.

~ Erwin McManus, author

Talking with people who agree with you is like jogging in a cul-de-sac. When I was growing up in East Texas, Baptists talked about the Bible with Baptists, Presbyterians with Presbyterians, Episcopalians with Episcopalians, Methodists with Methodists, and Jews with Jews. But we never talked about the Bible across our faiths, much less across our race. It's why you grow up even in a small town well church, well taught, and well loved and still be ignorant of people just blocks away.

~ Bill Moyers, Journalist

Could it be in finding Christ, we found each other, only to find out that we're all porcupines stuffed in an overcrowded elevator on our way?

~ Anonymous

In his book, “The Great Divorce”, C. S. Lewis...portrays hell as a centrifugal community in which the individuals are so alienating to each other that they spin off further and further from each other. Heaven, on the other hand is a... community in which intimacy flourishes because of the transparent “knowing as we are known”.

~ Dr. Donald Joy, author and psychologist

God's purpose is not just to have isolated individuals and so perpetuate loneliness, but rather to build a new society, a new family... that lives a new life and a new lifestyle.

~ John Stott

In the early days of the Jesus movement, Christ-followers called each other “brother” and “sister”. This was not a way of being poetic and polite, but a reflection of what they really believed to be true.... With the God of Jesus as their shared Father, they were truly family to each other. In all their struggles, they prayed not, “My father who is in heaven,” but “Our Father.”

~ Bruy Cavey, *The End of Religion*

It is a good book. You should read it if you haven't yet.

~Tim Day

The love we are to have for one another... never stands aloof from other people's joys or pains. Love identifies with them, sings with them and suffers with them. Love enters deeply into their experiences and their emotions, their laughter and their tears, and feels solidarity with them, whatever their mood.

~ John Stott

Speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

~ Ephesians 4:15-16, NIV