



## Part 3 – From Stranger to Friend

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

When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbours; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.

~ Jesus

God’s purpose is not just to have isolated individual’s 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

Community is the fruit of our capacity to make the interests of others more important than our own. The question, therefore, is not "How can we make community?" but "How can we develop and nurture giving hearts?"

~ Henri Nouwen

The early Christians were so committed to caring for one another’s needs that history records their practice of fasting to save food to give to others who were more in need. What would happen if the world today could see such a clear and consistent demonstration of God’s love? What would happen if we were seen as servants to our neighbourhoods and communities instead of recruiters of new members?

~ Wes Roberts

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

~James, the half brother of Jesus

Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.

~ Jesus

Distance does not decide who is your brother and who is not.

~ Bono

If you didn’t see U2 a week ago you missed a great concert.

~Tim Day

Poverty, I realized, wasn't only a lack of financial resources; it was isolation from the kind of people that could help you make more of yourself.

~ Keith Ferrazzi

If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care—then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends.

.... Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.

~ Philippians 4:1-4, *The Message*

Then the King will say to those on his right, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.”

~ Jesus