

The Quest to be Better Men  
True Friendship  
by  
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# This meeting

- Informal but not trivial
  - Not meeting for meetings' sake
- Complement not replace
  - Sunday services, Homegroups, Prayer meetings
- Positive not negative
  - But Godliness has value for all things
- Growing together not competing
  - Giving each other space to grow

# The challenge

- How do we help each other to be godly men
- Some things to think about
  - True Friendship
  - Encouragement
  - Actively caring for each other (accountability)
  - Growing together in Grace and in the Knowledge of our God
  - Understanding what that means in terms of relationships: wives, children, wider family, friends, work colleagues, etc.

# Notes on True Friendship

Aelred: the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century monk says:

- Carnal Friendship: based on shared pleasure, where there is a common delight such as golf or getting together
- Worldly Friendship: based on mutual advantage or objective, such as business partners
- Spiritual Friendship: based on or grounded in a mutual desire to follow God. It is regarded as the most powerful friendship of them all

# True Friendship

- Proverbs: 18:24
- A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother
- True friendship (male to male) is shown in the relationship between Jonathan and David
- True friendship (female to female) is shown in the relationship between Ruth and Naomi

# True Friendship

- Be discerning : Recognize that friendships influence you for good or bad: Proverbs 13:20
  - He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm
- Be deliberate
  - Friendship takes work!
  - To have good friends, you must be determined to be a good friend

# Questions

- Are your closest friendships carnal, worldly or spiritual?
- What are the challenges to friendship that you experience?
- What can we do to ensure that the church really is a family, so that nobody feels isolated as a follower of Christ?