

# RECOVERING BIBLICAL FRIENDSHIP

**A**  
**B**ACK to the BASICS series at Harbour Shores Church

**Sermon Title:** *Recovering Biblical Friendship: Design & Deficiencies*

**Scripture:** John 15:12-17, et al

Pastor Stephen Schultze / Sunday, August 28, 2022

*"This world is full of sorrow because it is full of sin.... It is a dark place. It is a lonely place. It is a disappointing place. The brightest sunbeam in it is a friend.*

***Friendship halves our troubles and doubles our joys."*** J.C. Ryle

- **By the design of the Creator, friendship is intended to bring wholeness & delight.**
  - Genesis 2:18, 23-24; 1 John 1:7
- **The greatest commandment calls us to loving relationships with God and one another.**
  - John 15:12, 17; Matthew 22:37-39
- **The greatest relationship is described in terms of intimate friendship.**
  - John 15:13-15; James 4:4; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
- **The greatest friendship is expressed in the ultimate sacrifice.**
  - John 15:13; Proverbs 27:9-10; 17:17; 18:24

## **Destructive deficiencies and distractions:**

- Lack of availability.
- Lack of depth.
- Lack of shared experience.

## **Questions to Consider:**

1. Why is it so important to understand that God solved the aloneness problem before the fall?
2. How did the fall bring destruction and division to friendship?
3. In what ways do friendships "halve our troubles and double our joys?"
4. How have we hollowed the meaning of friendship? How does this affect our view of our relationship with God?
5. How does the Gospel free us to be better, more transparent and more selfless friends?
6. What are some areas which especially create deficiencies in your friendships?