

MARK 12:28-31 (MSG)

One of the religion scholars came up. Hearing the lively exchanges of question and answer and seeing how sharp Jesus was in his answers, he put in his question: "Which is most important of all the commandments?"

Jesus said, "The first in importance is, 'Listen, Israel: The Lord your God is one; so love the Lord God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy.' And here is the second: 'Love others as well as you love yourself.' There is no other commandment that ranks with these."

MATTHEW 4:18-22 (NIV)

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

MATTHEW 10:1-5 (NIV)

Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out...

MATTHEW 12:46-50 (NIV)

While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you."

He replied to him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" Pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

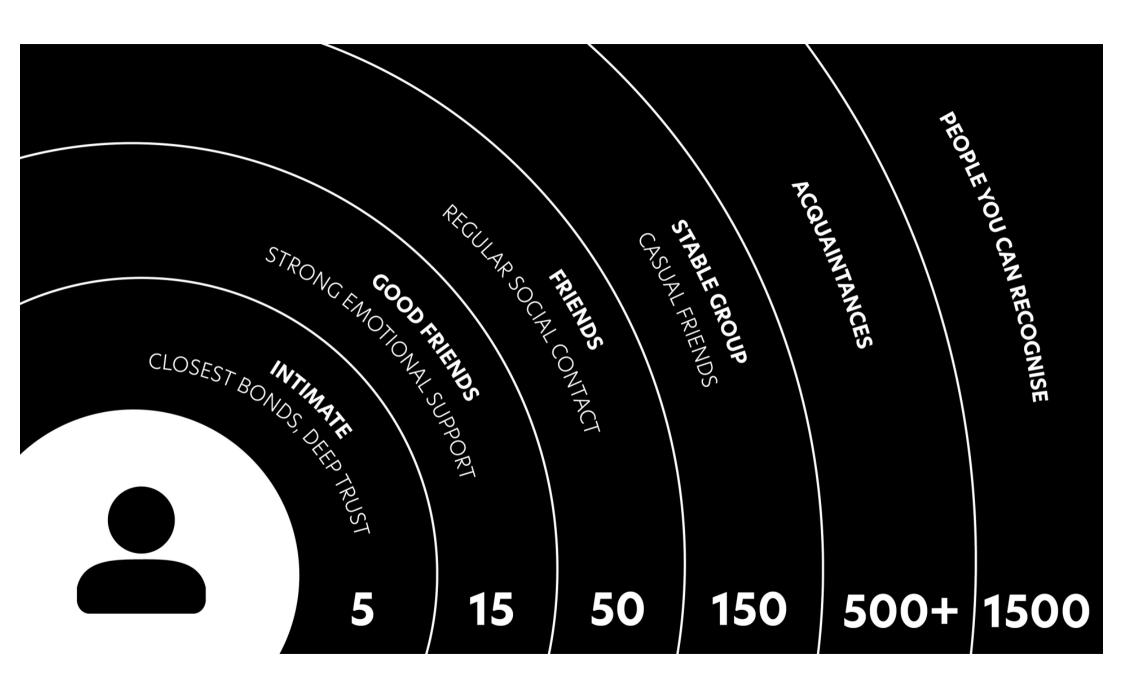
ἀδελφοί adelphoi

ROMANS 8:15 (NIV)

The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."









"Fellowship is deeper still; it is a bond of commitment that says to another I am with you, in the pain and in the joy."

SARAH YARDLEY

'Lectio 365: Tuesday 10th June'

- WHO COULD I BE A GOOD FRIEND TO?
- WHO COULD I BE PART OF A VILLAGE FOR?
- WHO AM I SAMWISE TO?
- WHO DO I GO INTO BATTLE FOR?

"Rather than offering the Christian community as an alternative to the increasing loneliness and meaningless of contemporary life, we mirror its patterns, fleeing from the essential components of healthy community building: commitment, stickability, resilience, and reliability. Regular connection with the Christian community becomes fleeting, an imposition upon personal freedom. We seek community and convenience without covenant."

MARK SAYERS

'From Platforms to Pillars: Trading the burden of performance for the freedom of God's Presence'

HEBREWS 10:24–25 (NIV)

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."



"...compelling, redemptive stick of dynamite in the social architecture of the ancient world, and an absolute mess of relational tension, conflict, and division that needed mending. They were a hospitable, loving, generous, sacrificial, revolutionary family, and the day-in, day-out experience in that family included conflict, segregation, incest, false teaching, cultural colonization, and ignoring the poor, among other issues. It was a mess – a lively, compelling mess, but don't mistake it for anything but a mess."

TYLER STATON

'The Familiar Stranger'

"There are no 'successful' congregations in Scripture." **EUGENE PETERSON**

"Following Jesus means following him into communities of healing that are riddled with the disease."

TYLER STATON

'The Familiar Stranger'

"We either grow together or we don't grow much at all"
DR. JOSEPH HELLERMAN
'When the Church Was a Family'

JOHN 13:34 (NIV)

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

JOHN 13:35 (NIV)

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."