

Genuine Agreement

Harvest Community Church
Series: The Power of Agreement

Text: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

There are relationships that make us better. They help us get on the right path, stay on the right path and help us to move forward and **upward**. There are relationships that drag you down, people who put you down and others who weigh you down like an anchor as you drag them around and then there are relationships that lift you up and you raise them up. **Proverbs 17:17, Acts 4:36-37, Proverbs 18:24** There is something powerful about relationships that desire the best for one another and speak and work to make it happen. That is genuine agreement.

Genuine - truly what something is said to be; authentic. sincere. free from hypocrisy or pretense, Actual or true

In our journey we will meet people who are obviously part of God's plan for our lives. These special people become **friends** and co-laborers, they bring an added dimension of increase to one another's lives. **1 Corinthians 3:9 (AMP)** Any task is easier when someone is along to help. **Ecclesiastes 4:9** We also accomplish more **together**. There is safety in numbers, in accountability, encouragement and in protection. When people work together the "heavy lifting" becomes possible in any endeavor. Friends and co-workers **share** the load. This gives us people to celebrate wins with, help one another up when we fall short and someone to bounce ideas off of when we lose our way.

There are people that God brings together for a **common** shared purpose and cause. These are people that God puts into our life and us into their life to inspire, challenge, assist, listen, encourage, provoke and stir one another up to a higher level of character and achievement. **Hebrews 10:24 (NKJV, KJV, NIV, AMP, NLT)** These genuine relationships are never **one** sided. God gave Adam – Eve, David and Jonathon needed one another, Paul and Silas reached the gentiles with the Gospel, Ester was inspired by Mordecai who was given honor and wealth when she became Queen. Ruth listened to Naomi who was blessed by Ruth's faithfulness. Where would Billy Graham be without George Beverly Shea?

Three types of relationships:

- **Soulmates** - These are people that God calls you to do life with at a deep level. These can be family. Your wife, husband, or children. They may be someone that you work closely with. These people know you as well as or better than you know you. These people love you and you love them. They have access to your life and you to theirs. There is freedom to challenge, encourage and speak into. These people stand with you and you with them through thick and thin, the good times and the battles. God will never allow another person of the opposite gender to be your soulmate who is not your spouse (this is vital to understand). These are people that you are **tied** to or bound to in the best of ways. You do life together soul to soul not just face to face.

A great example of this is David and Jonathan **1 Samuel 18:1** This is a friendship that does not need a common objective or close proximity to thrive. This is a connection that involves friendship, genuine love (Nonsexual), and a unity of purpose. Aside from your spouse, there will be very **few** of these people in your life.

- **Teammates** - These are people who have the same outlook, desire to achieve and purpose in your life. These are people who are there for you and you for them. This is friendship that is built around a common cause and purpose. If it were not for the common purpose or goals, the feelings of fondness would be there but not the reason to work or do life together. These are people that work with you, fight for you and with you, challenge you and inspire you. Together you are innovative, brave, strong, and victorious. These are the people that lay aside ambition and pride to accomplish more together. Teammates appreciate each other's abilities and make allowances for and compliment one another's weaknesses. Many times, these are people that are in your life for a season. Teammates **sacrifice** for one another so that they can all shine together. A true teammate will stop their race to help you up when you fall so that you both finish together. A great example of this would be the twelve apostles who walked with Jesus. All of them very different from one another yet all had Jesus in common.

- **Cellmates** - These are the opposites of a soulmate or a teammate. A cellmate is someone who is in prison with you and would rather you stay in prison with them than gain your freedom. These people want you to be who you always have been. They never want you to become all that God desires for you to be. Your prison may be sin, defeat, disappointment, addiction, financial debt, or failure. They want you to be who they think you are and never want to see you rise **above** and beyond. Cellmates live by the saying that "**misery** loves company". A cellmate is a co-dependent person who is your friend as long as you are in prison with them. They are fine with you as long as you stay mediocre and frustrated at life with them. When you start moving into blessing and accomplishment these people can become bitter and resentful of you. Some will even try to bring you back down or **sabotage** your joy by being jealous and mean or causing some disruption to stop your forward progress.

Supernatural blessings that come when you are connected to soulmates and teammates.

- ❖ Genuine agreement brings **victory** over our enemies. **Ecclesiastes 4:12** In spiritual warfare two can fight better than one. Friendship with other believers always brings in one more – Jesus.

- ❖ Genuine agreement releases answers to **prayer**. **Matthew 18:19-20** Friendship brings us together to bring one another to God and release the power of united prayer.

- ❖ Genuine agreement brings the **presence** of God. He says that where two or more are gathered in His name that He is in the midst of them. Together we are a team. With God we are an army. While we can bring comfort to one another, when God is with us, we have the promise of peace.
- ❖ Genuine agreement **fortifies** you when you are under attack. We are stronger together. Jesus sent the disciples out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits. Never do spiritual warfare alone.
- ❖ Genuine agreement strengthens our **faith** in times of hopelessness. A paralyzed man had friends who were willing to get him to Jesus even when if it meant getting on a roof and cutting a hole in it and lowering him down. True friends came into agreement that they wanted their friend healed, each one's faith inspired the other one and gave hope to a helpless friend. Who your friends are matters.

True friendship is a rare thing in our day. Women need good woman friends and men need good male companionship. David and Jonathan exemplify this type of friendship that is **deep**, lasting and powerful. **2 Samuel 1:26 (NIV)** Jonathan was more than a friend, he was a **brother**. There is nothing sexual in this at all. As a matter of fact, it is possible to have friends that mean as much or more to us than our own blood.

The word brother means one who is **like** me, who has an affinity with me. David describes this relationship as **wonderful**, in Hebrew it means miraculous. He described this friendship as loving. This is the equivalent of the Greek word agape. This is friendship at its best and highest and most lasting.

This type of friendship has five key components

- 1) It is deep; the Bible describes it as soul to **soul**. **1 Samuel 18:1** The best of friendships ties the lives and destinies of people together.
- 2) It is a self - **giving** love. For friendship to flourish each one must give to the other.
- 3) True friendship leads us to **surrender** our own ambitions to assist our friends. **1 Samuel 18:3-4, 1 Samuel 23:17** A true friend can recognize God's call on your life.
- 4) Genuine friendship will transcend **circumstances**. **1 Samuel 20:4** Real friends can weep together and in times of crisis, they stand with you. They are there in times of your greatest need.
- 5) Genuine friendship extends beyond the **grave**. **1 Samuel 20:42** David honored his friend's life by taking care of his son Mephibosheth.

The eternal covenant of genuine agreement is found in our **salvation**. Jesus' friendship with us extends far beyond the grave.

