

Handout: Iron Sharpening Iron

Topic: Biblical Friendship

Key Texts: Proverbs 27:17, Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

The Challenge

We have many connections, but few true friends. We settle for surface-level "buddies" instead of spiritual partners.

Part 1: The Danger of Isolation

Ecclesiastes 4:10 *"If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up."*

Key Thought: Isolation is the enemy's playground. A "cord of three strands" (You + Friend + God) is not easily broken.

- **Question:** Who is the person you would call at 2:00 AM if your world fell apart?

Part 2: The Friction of Growth

Proverbs 27:17 *"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."*

Key Thought: Sharpening requires **Friction**.

- A "Marshmallow Friend" comforts you but leaves you dull.
- An "Iron Friend" loves you enough to challenge you.
- **Question:** Do you give your friends permission to call you out when you are wrong?

Part 3: The "One Another" Way

Biblical friendship isn't about what you get; it's about what you give. Like Jonathan gave his robe to David (1 Samuel 18), we are called to selfless loyalty.

Action Step: Move the conversation from *"How about that game?"* to *"How is your soul?"*