

MARRIAGE: *Friendship Is Essential!*

A puzzle piece image of a couple sitting on a rock by a lake. The couple is in the center, with the woman on the left and the man on the right. They are both looking at each other. The background shows a lake and some trees. The puzzle pieces are white with brown borders.

Marriage:

*Finding More of
the Missing Pieces*

Part two of Elim's sermon series on marriage.

Ecclesiastes 4:8-12

⁸ There was a man all alone; he had neither son nor brother. There was no end to his toil, yet his eyes were not content with his wealth. “For whom am I toiling, and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?” This too is meaningless — a miserable business! ⁹ Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work:



Ecclesiastes 4:8-12

¹⁰ If one falls down, his friend can help him up. Pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! ¹¹ Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? ¹² Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.



FRIENDSHIP IS BOTH GLORIOUS AND FRAGILE!

“What people seem to want most of all in a mate is a best friend for life. But for too many couples, this desire for lifelong intimacy is more a hope than a reality. It’s not that it is an unreasonable expectation to have your mate be your best friend. Most couples start out with a good taste of it. It’s just that friendships need to be nurtured in ways many couples fail to realize until their friendship is all but gone.”

A Lasting Promise, 223.



FRIENDSHIP IS BOTH GLORIOUS AND FRAGILE!

- *Being neglected*
- *Critical, grumbling spirit*
- *Unresolved conflicts*
- *Creeping separateness*



FRIENDSHIP IS ROOTED IN AND EMPOWERED BY THE GOSPEL!

1 Thessalonians 4:9

*Now about brotherly love we do not
need to write to you, for you
yourselves have been taught by God
to love each other.*



FRIENDSHIP IS ROOTED IN AND EMPOWERED BY THE GOSPEL!

- *Friendship is modeled by the gospel.*
- *We experience friendship (with God) through the gospel.*
- *Giving friendship to my spouse is empowered by the gospel.*



FRIENDSHIP IS ROOTED IN AND EMPOWERED BY THE GOSPEL!

1 John 4:7

*Dear friends, let us love one another,
for love comes from God. Everyone
who loves has been born of God and
knows God.*

