

Messages from concepts shared in “The Loneliness Solution: Finding Meaningful Connection in a Disconnected World” by Jack Eason. More free resources are available at: www.jackeason.org

What are the Roadblocks to Friendship?

John 15:12-15

It starts with friendship:

What does the Bible say about friendship? The subject of friendship appears throughout the Bible, especially in John 15:12–15.

What is our model for friendship?

“Greater love has no man than this...”

Things prevent us from building these kinds of friendships.

Roadblock #1: Selfishness/Pride

When we were kids, if we had something that was ours, more than likely there was a time when we shouted, “Mine!”

Roadblock #2: Jealousy

A second possible roadblock to fellowship and friendship is jealousy. Jealousy is pride’s sibling.

Roadblock #3: Unforgiveness

The third roadblock to fellowship and friendship happens a lot today.

Matthew 6:14–15 (ESV) says, “For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

Roadblock #4: Disunity

The fourth roadblock to fellowship and friendship is what Oxford’s calls *disunity*. This is defined as “having disagreement and conflict.”



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Roadblock #5: We Don't Understand Submission

Dr. Matthew Vander Wiele says, “The essence of biblical community submits the individual to the community, not the community to the individual.”⁴

Call to Action:

How are we doing at building friendships?
Do we understand this is a two way street?
What is one area of your life where you are selfish?
Are you jealous of anyone or anything?

Are you harboring unforgiveness?
Is there an attitude of disunity in your life?
Have you really truly given yourself to submitting to the
community of faith as God has instructed us?



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