

## Finding Friendships

*Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.*

COLOSSIANS 3:13-14

How can we build meaningful friendships? I often hear people complain that they don't have any close friends, but that is usually because they have failed to take disciplined action to establish such relationships. They don't have the courage to follow what Colossians 3 says and be gracious and forgiving. A disciplined person would say, I am going to make a major decision to get involved in a small group of fellow Christians where other people will be looking for friends too, and I am going to follow through on that decision. Then, every time the group meets, I am going to show up and open up and build some friendships. In a year or eighteen months, that man or woman probably will be able to look around a dining room table and see four or five people who have become like brothers and sisters thanks to an advance decision. Doing the hard work of relationship building results in deep joy.

**APPLY:** *What does it mean to forgive as the Lord forgave you? How would such a practice relate to the discipline of building meaningful friendships?*

*Blessings Pastor Bob Hill*