

**Podcast Episode Notes**  
**Season 4 Episode 4 Spheres of Friendship**

Wisdom says that we're permitted to speak into others' lives only to the degree they allow us. But not all friendships are equal and not all require the same commitment. So, what are the different spheres (or levels) of friendships in our lives and how do we prioritize them within healthy boundaries? In this episode, we discuss the characteristics and responsibilities of 4 spheres of friendships and how God has called us to tend to those and love people well there.

**Circles of Friendship**

1. The Crowd (Acquaintances)
  - occasional contact, friendly conversation
  - acknowledge them with love and grace
  - discern what questions are appropriate to ask at this point in the friendship
  
2. The Casual (Informal Friendships)
  - based on common interests, activities, concerns
  - personal conversation that centers on information about each other, our opinions and desires
  - affirm strengths and encourage them
  - recognize what God has done and is doing in their lives
  - watch for their strengths, be a good listener
  - come alongside them in prayer and encouragement if they disclose a problem to you
  
3. The Committed (Close Friendships)
  - based on mutual enjoyment and life purpose, deeper heart-link
  - purposeful conversation revolving around issues of life purpose and speaking into each other's lives
  - be available to come alongside them in life's journey as invited
  - pray regularly for them
  - be careful not to step into areas where they have not invited you
  - actively encourage them and be available to help them in whatever ways you can
  
4. The Core (Intimate Friendships)
  - based on a mutual commitment to walk together before God at a deeper level
  - besides a spouse (if married), only a few will be part of your core relationships
  - intimate conversation that is totally honest, vulnerable and a transparent sharing of the heart
  - used by God to help each become more like Jesus
  - walk alongside each other to finish well as it relates to living life and fulfilling God's calling
  - learn how to comfort and strengthen them through trials
  - assume a personal level of responsibility for their reputation
  - when correction is necessary, it is done more personally behind the scenes
  - pray for them and obey what God asks you to do for them

Learn more about this topic in Chapter 7 of *A Discipleship Journey: A Proven and Practical Tool for Making Disciples* available at [Lionshare.org/store](https://Lionshare.org/store). You can access Dave's Devotionals for free on the Lionshare Leadership Group app.