

God's Love in Marriage

We love because he first loved us.

~ 1 John 4.19 ~

God's Love in Marriage

Week 1

God's Purpose
for Marriage

Week 2

Cancer and
the Cure

Week 3

God's Love
in Marriage

Week 4

The Thorns
in Marriage

Week 5

Intimate
Friendship

Week 6

Deep Lasting
Change

The Thorns in Marriage

Thorns in marriage are unpleasant and
unavoidable.

But thorns in marriage are also
opportunities.

(growth, humility, understanding, chemo)

The Thorns in Marriage

Satan's
Message

Doubt
Rebellion
Anxiety
Selfishness

Ultimate Despair



One Thorn
Two Messages

God's
Message

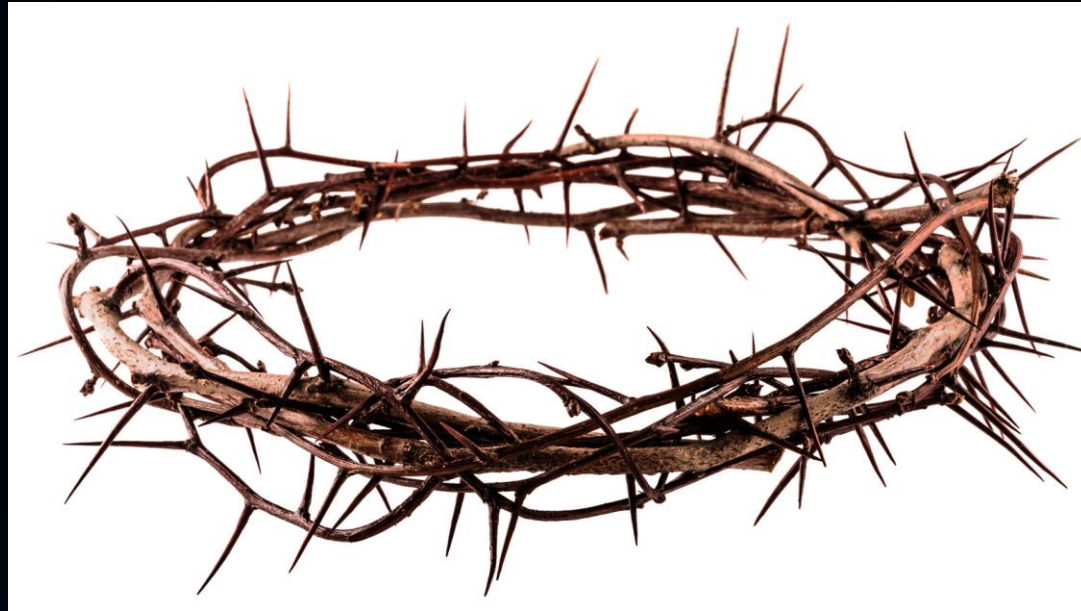
Faith
Submission
Trust
Devotion

Ultimate Hope

The Thorns in Marriage

We say we want to be like Jesus

(but please — no thorns)



I wonder what **messages** Jesus heard?

The Thorns in Marriage

A message to anyone whose parents
you feel don't have a great marriage:
(and it's discouraging — *Satan's message*)

You can start a new legacy! — *God's message*

Week 5

Intimate Friendship

A friend loves at all times.

~ Proverbs 17.17 ~

Intimate Friendship

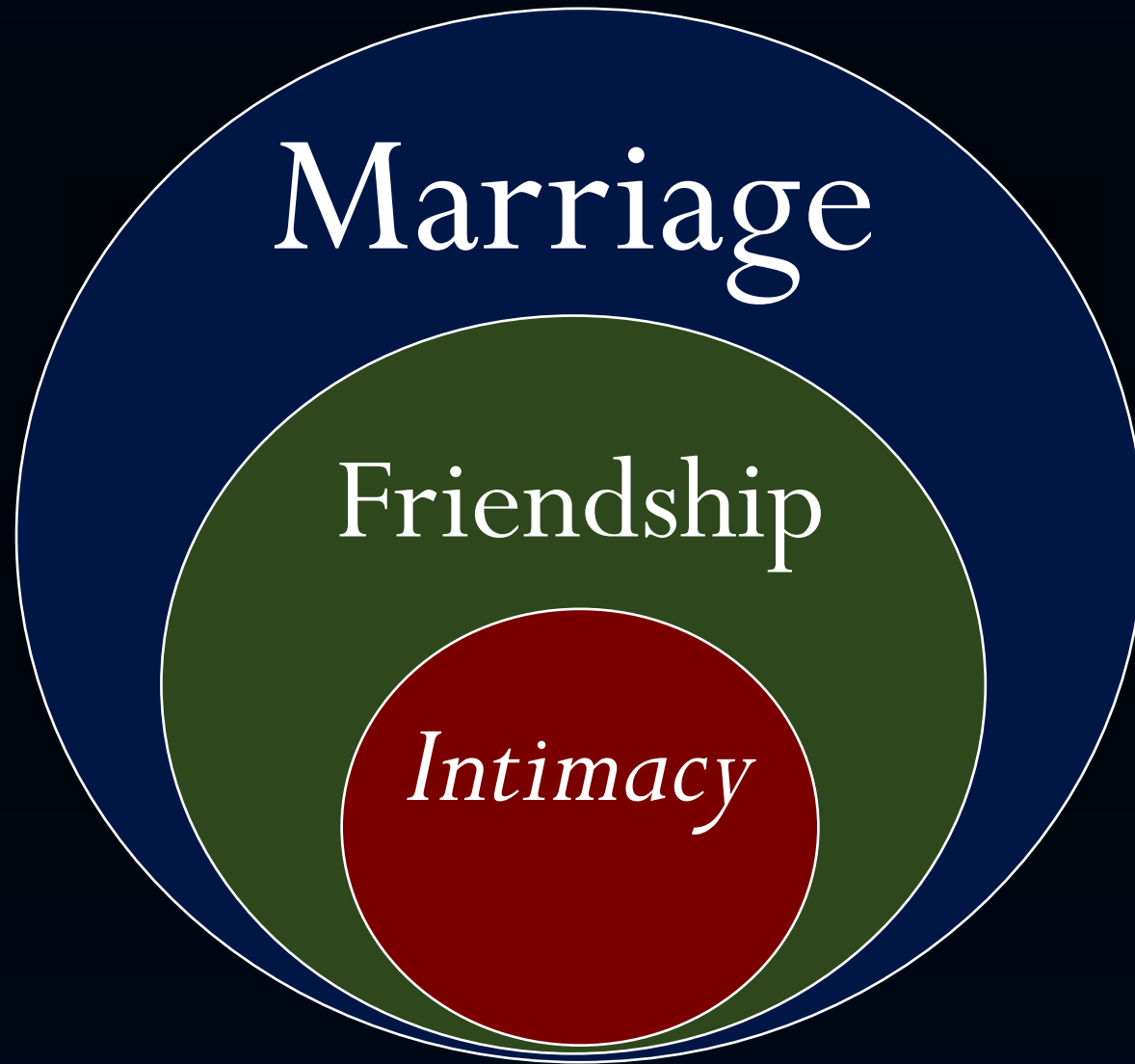


Marriage

Friendship

Intimacy

Intimate Friendship



Marriage

Friendship

Intimacy

Intimate Friendship



Marriage

Friendship

Intimate Friendship

How many of us have said this
to our lonely children:

*“To have a friend...
you need to be a friend.”*

Intimate Friendship

Why don't we apply this principle to our marriages?

(friendship is hard work — takes time / effort)

Intimate Friendship

After the children leave home,
they are still adored –
but many marriages fall apart...*why?*

Covenant vs. Consumer

children

spouse

Intimate Friendship

Consumer Relationship:

I'm in – but only conditionally...

when I get what I want out of it.

Intimate Friendship

Covenant Relationship:

A promise of future love.

(vows at a wedding)

Intimate Friendship

1. God's friendship with us is not based upon our friendship with Him. (*It's a covenant*)
2. Quality friendship in marriage is based upon the quality of our friendship with God.

Intimate Friendship

You will have a difficult time being a friend to your spouse if you don't understand your friendship with God.

Intimate Friendship

How has/is God displaying His
covenantal love to you?

How has He been your
dearest friend?

Intimate Friendship

The Holy Spirit is
the very best of friends to us...
so that we can learn how to be
our spouse's very best friend.

Intimate Friendship

1. Friends provide an emotional refuge.
2. Friends lovingly confront sin.
3. Friends help to inspire change.
4. Friends know when something is wrong.
5. Friends are available and accessible.
6. Friends bring out the best version of us.
7. Friends are safe – fully known, fully loved.

Intimate Friendship

He loved us not because
we were lovely to him...

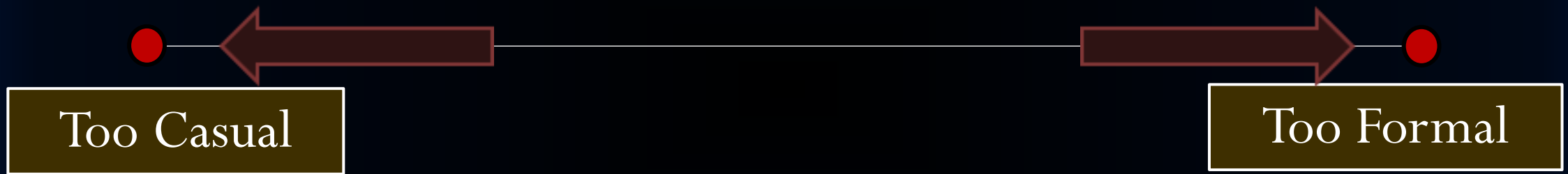
but to make us lovely
and to help us love others.

Intimate Friendship

Maybe you've thought that
calling God your "friend"
is just a bit too casual.

Intimate Friendship

The Pendulum



“If I’m going to error...”

Intimate Friendship

Being a friend of God
is His idea.

Intimate Friendship

John 15.9-15

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.

Abide in my love.

If you keep my commandments,
you will abide in my love, just as I have kept
my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

Intimate Friendship

John 15.9-15

These things I have spoken to you,
that my joy may be in you,
and that your joy may be full.

Intimate Friendship

John 15.9-15

This is my commandment,

that you love one another as I have loved you.

Greater love has no one than this, that someone
lay down his life for his friends.

You are my friends if you do what I command you.

Intimate Friendship

John 15.9-15

No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing;

but I have called you friends,

Intimate Friendship

John 15.9-15

No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing;

but I have called you friends,

for all that I have heard from my Father

I have made known to you.

Intimate Friendship

Jesus defines friendship as
pointing each other to the Father...
and reminding us to abide in His Love.

Intimate Friendship

Abide in Me.

Cling to Me.

Stick fast to Me.

Live a life of close and intimate
communion with Me.

Intimate Friendship

Get nearer and nearer to Me.

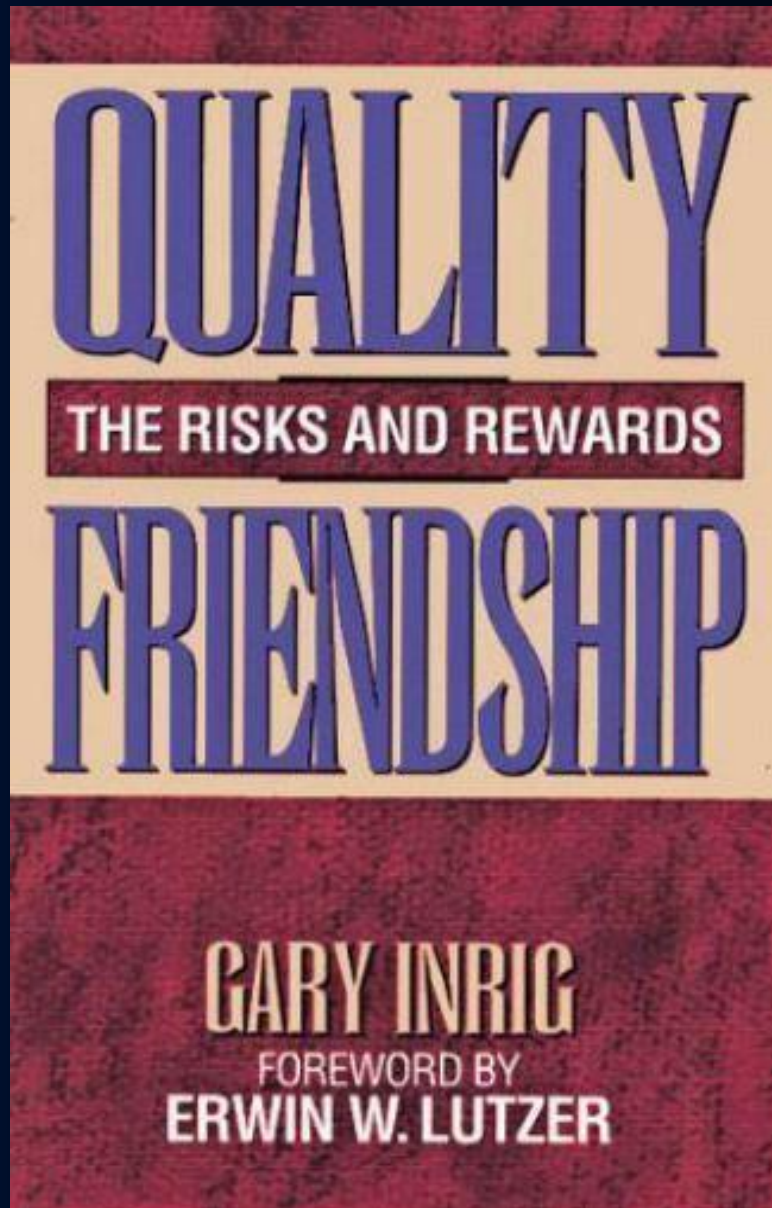
Roll every burden on Me.

Cast your whole weight on Me.

Never let go.

Be my friend...for I am yours.

Intimate Friendship



Quality Friendship

Gary Inrig

(p. 73 - WW1 story)

Intimate Friendship

Friendship in Marriage

Tim Keller:

 (5 min)

Intimate Friendship

Consistency

Always there for you

Intimate Friendship

Honesty

(with you and about you)

Intimate Friendship

Vulnerability

Able and willing to be naked

Intimate Friendship

Biblically, you must not be physically naked until you are naked in *every other way*.

Intimate Friendship

Blessing

I love you...I affirm this part.

I love you in spite of that part.

Intimate Friendship

Consistency

Honesty

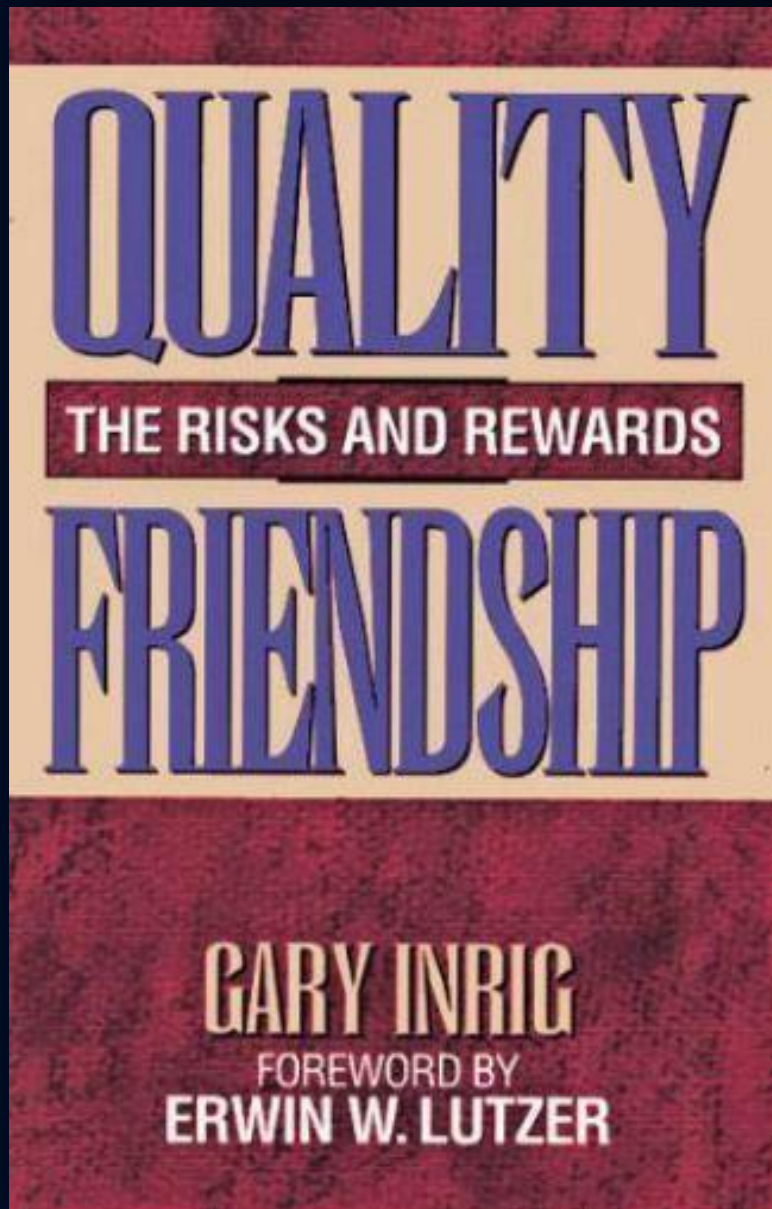
Vulnerability

Blessing

Intimate Friendship

Do everything you possibly can
to become best friends.

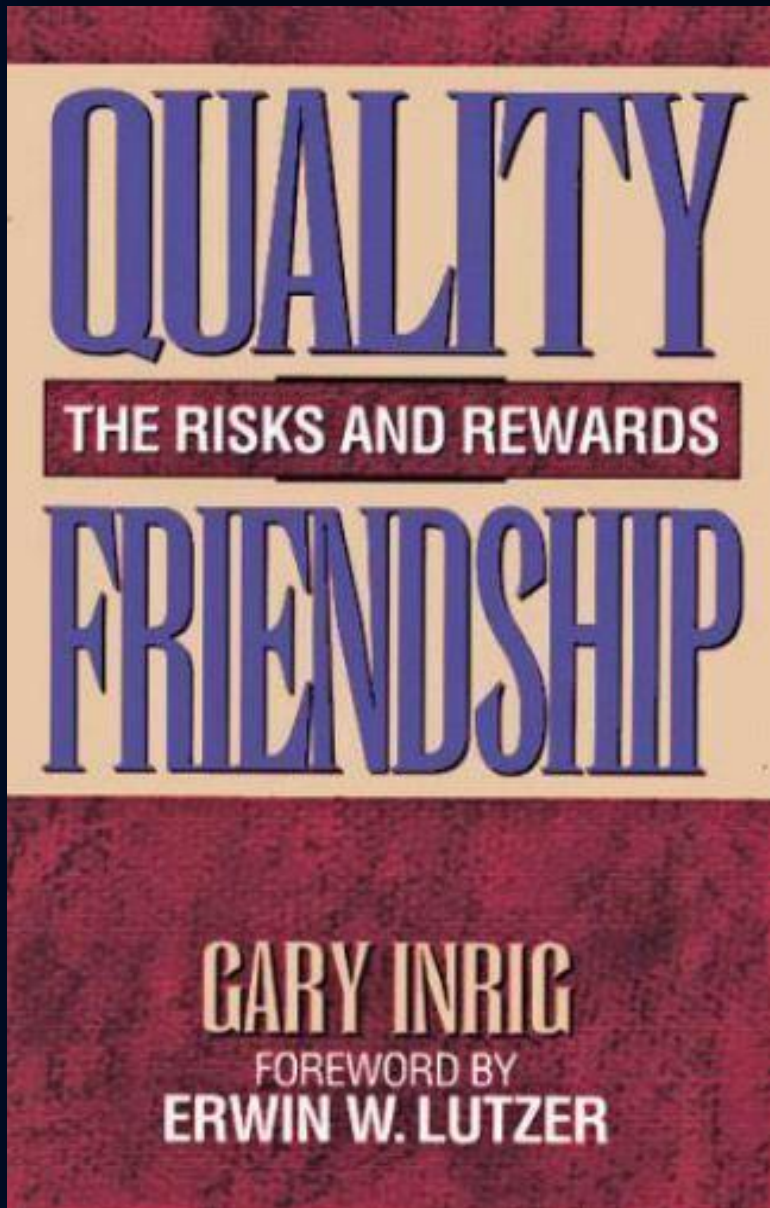
Intimate Friendship



How to Destroy a Friendship

(Applies to God,
your spouse or anyone)

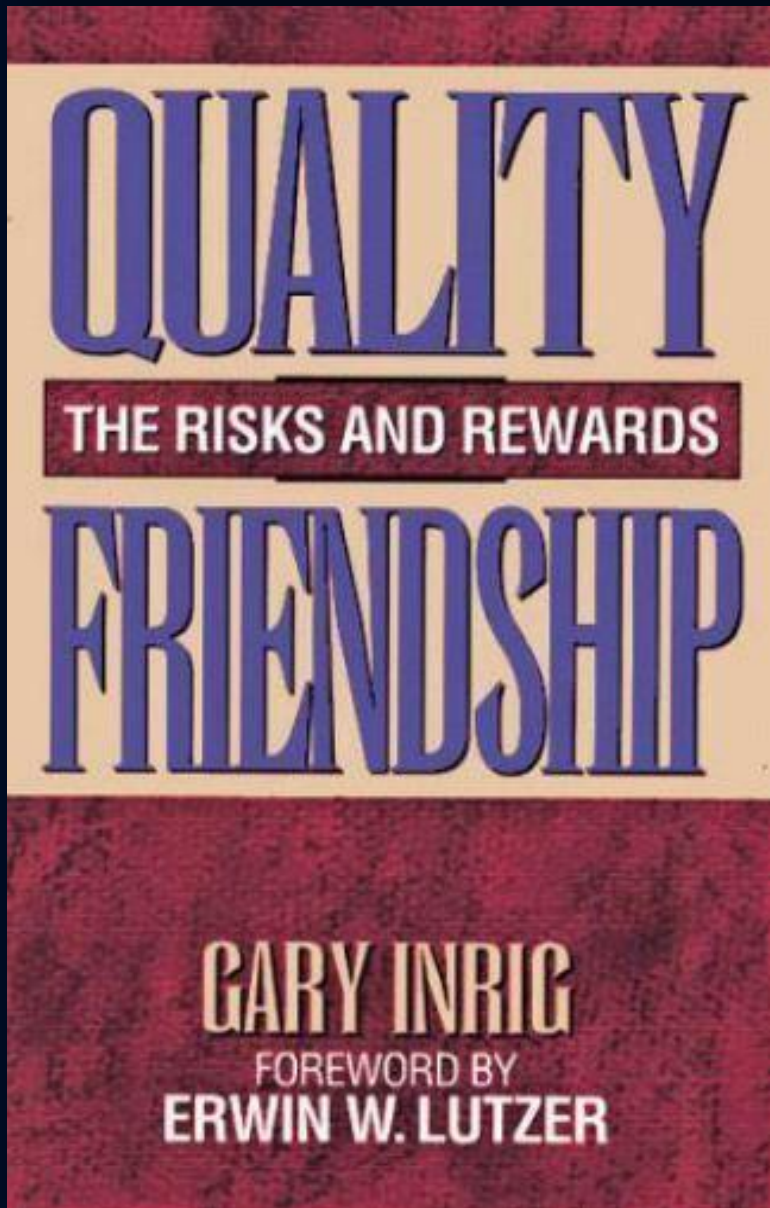
Intimate Friendship



How to Destroy a Friendship

Inrig uses the example of Saul's "friendship" with David.

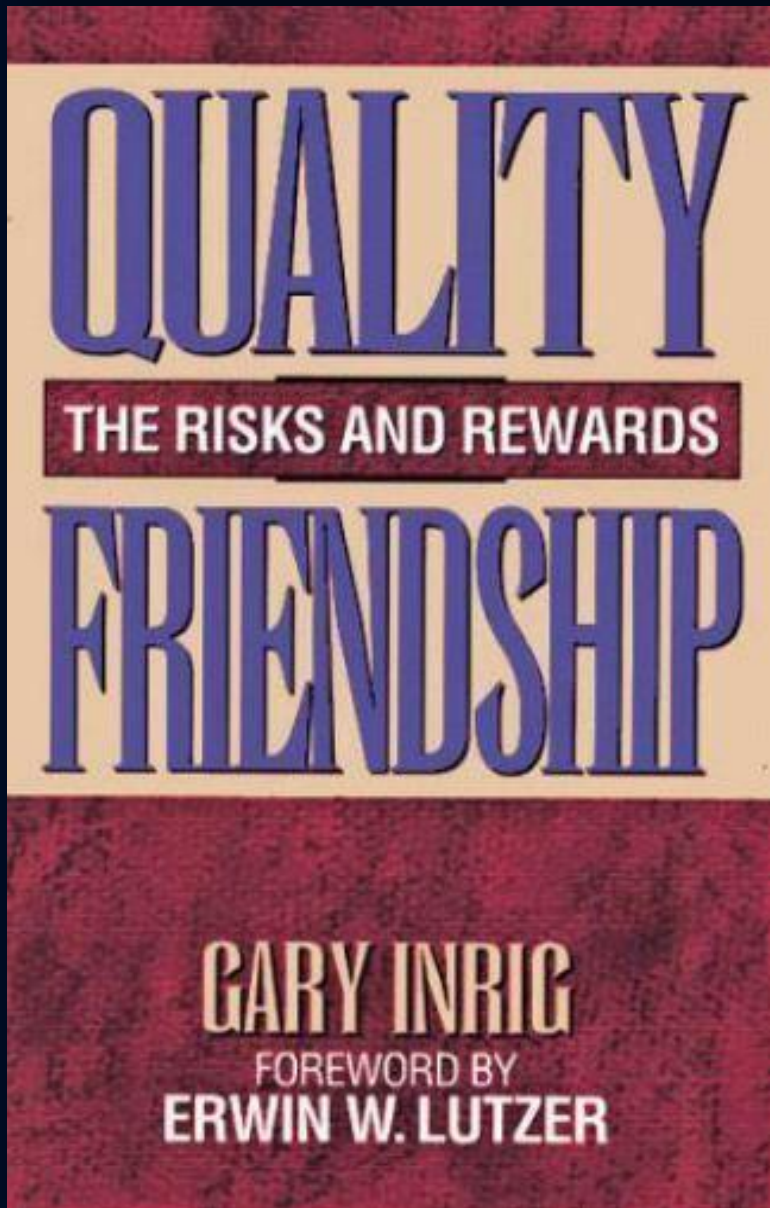
Intimate Friendship



1. Be Selfish

Make sure your friendship
is based upon
what the other person
can do for you.

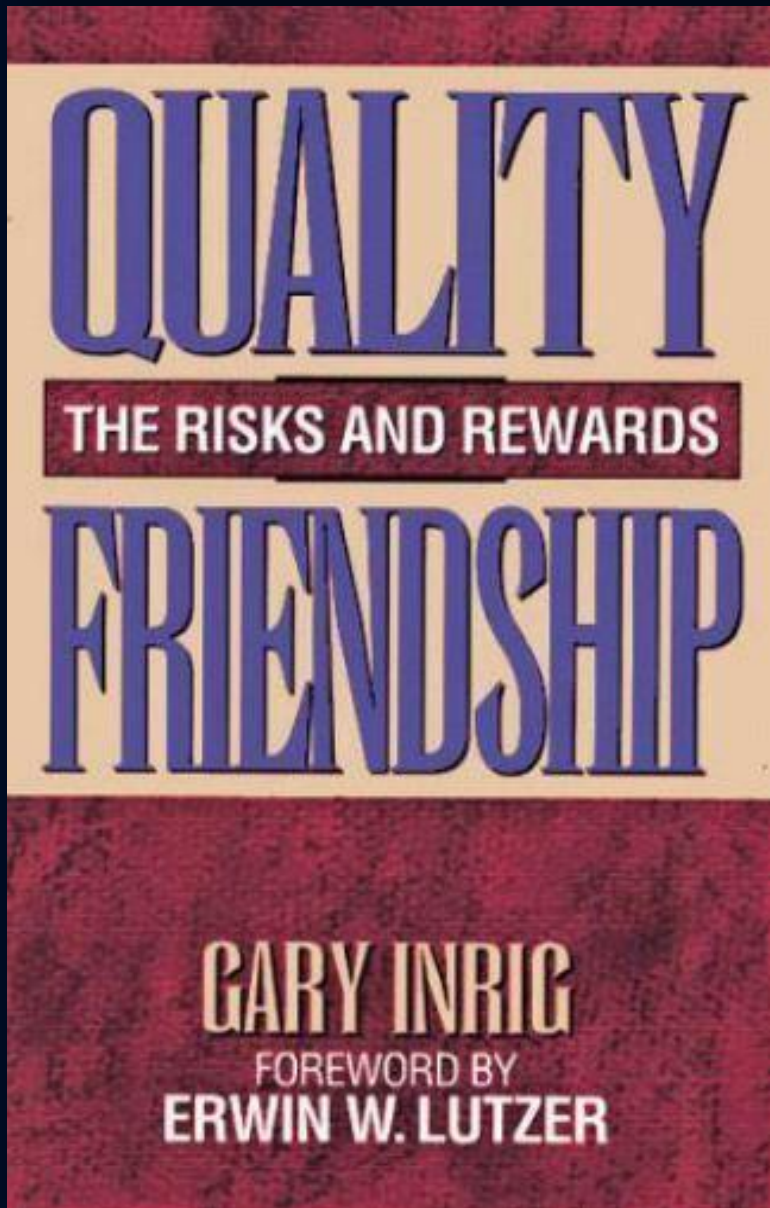
Intimate Friendship



2. Be Possessive

Do all you can
to keep that person
as your private property.

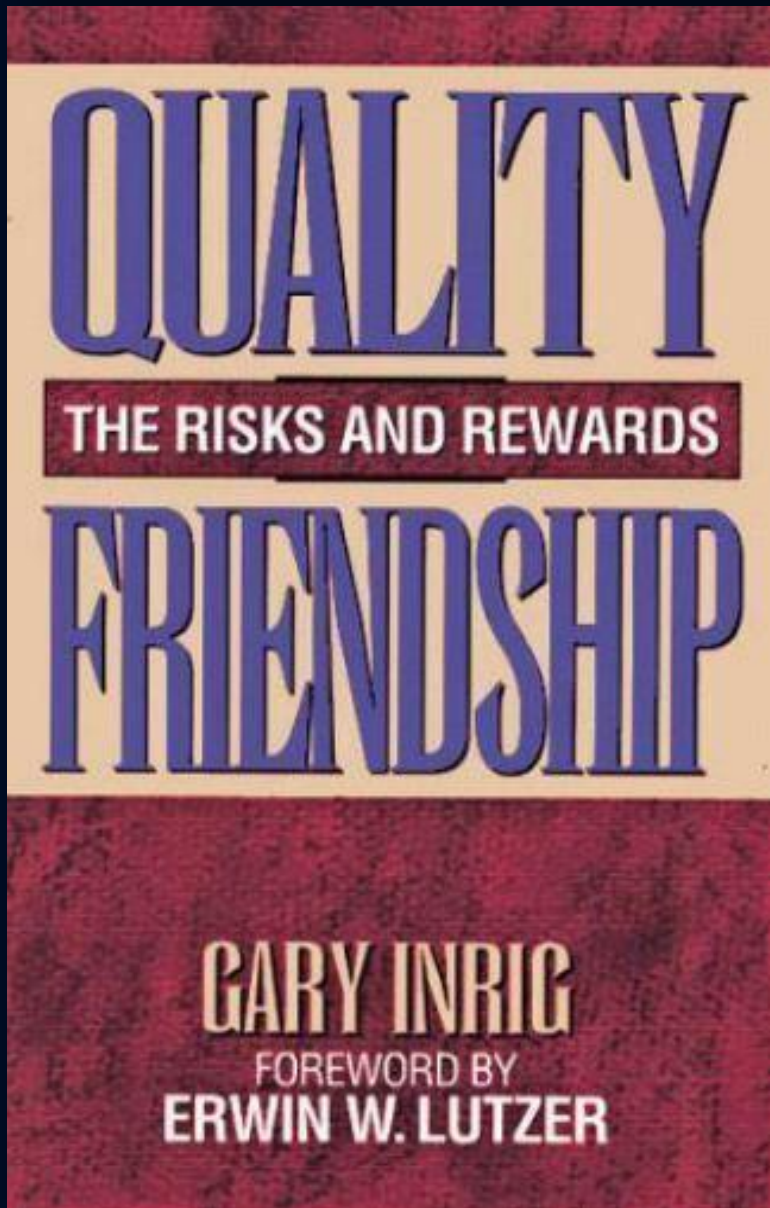
Intimate Friendship



3. Cultivate Jealousy

Keep a firm grasp on what is yours and protect it against all intruders.

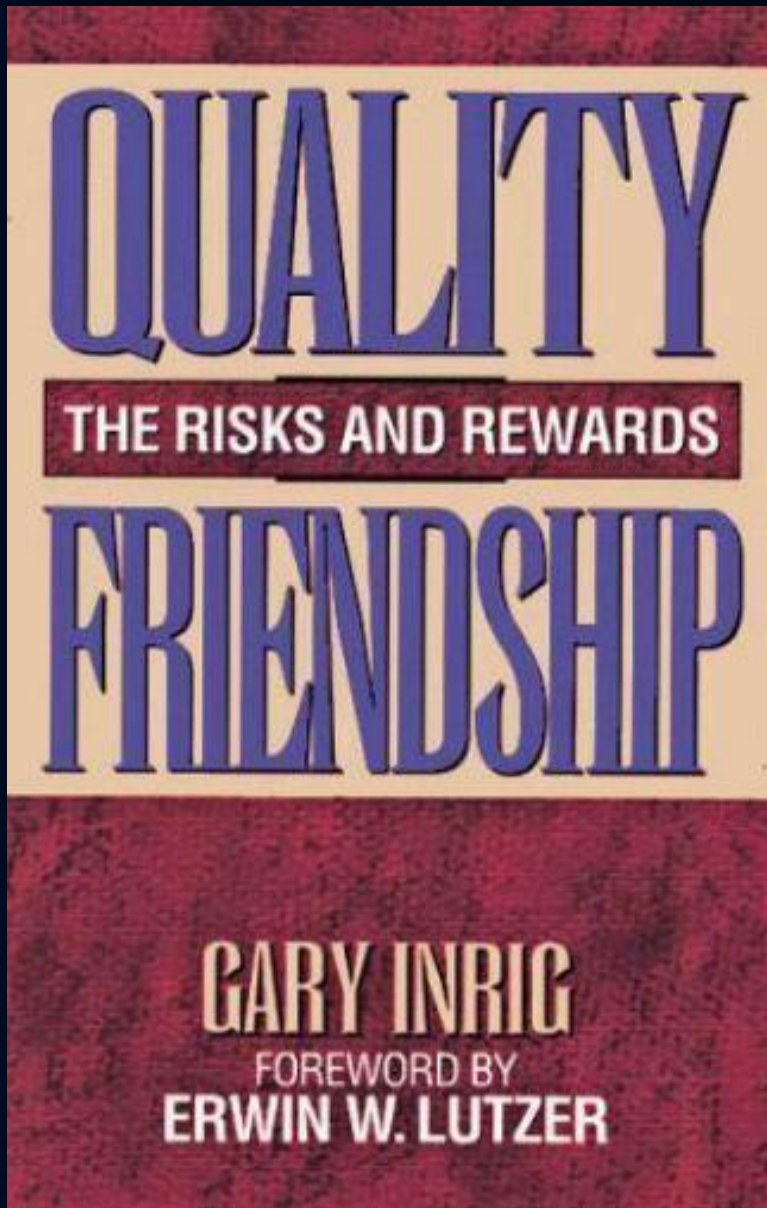
Intimate Friendship



4. Explode

Keep all feelings of anger or irritation inside until there's a "final straw".

Intimate Friendship

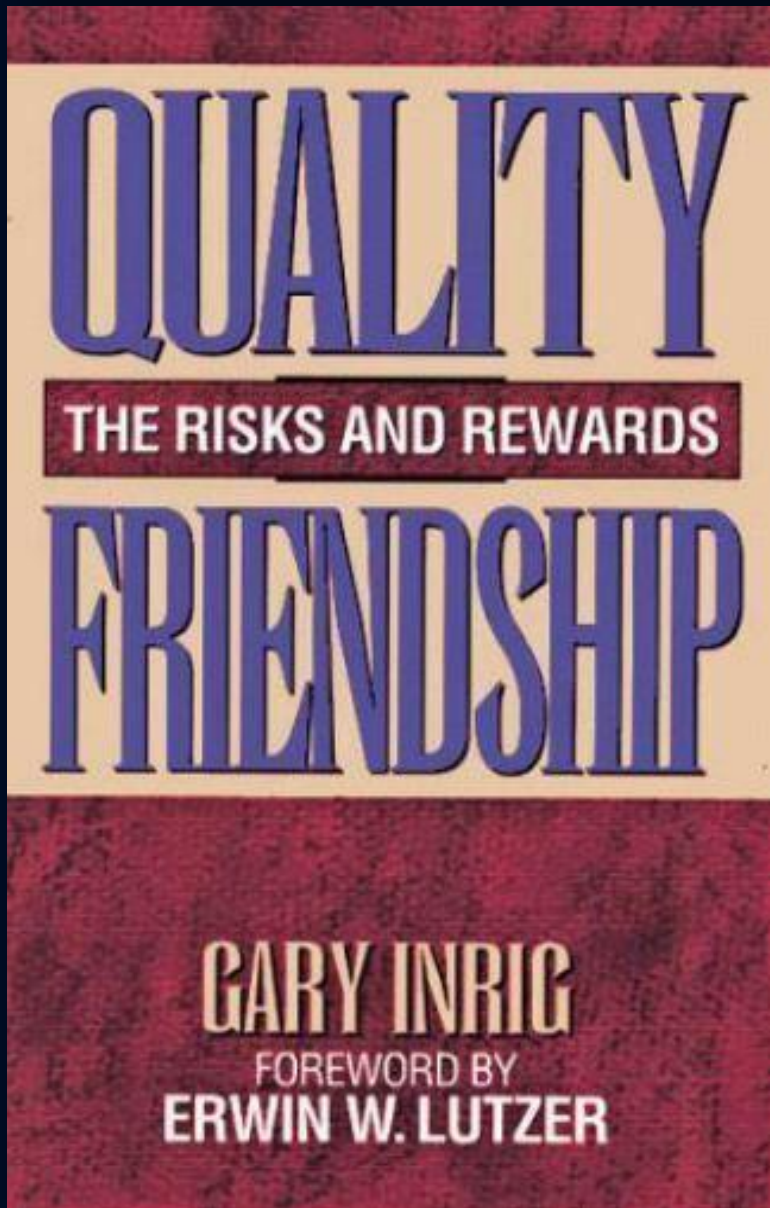


5. Avoidance

Do all you can to stay out of his/her way.

Do not intercede or help in any way.

Intimate Friendship



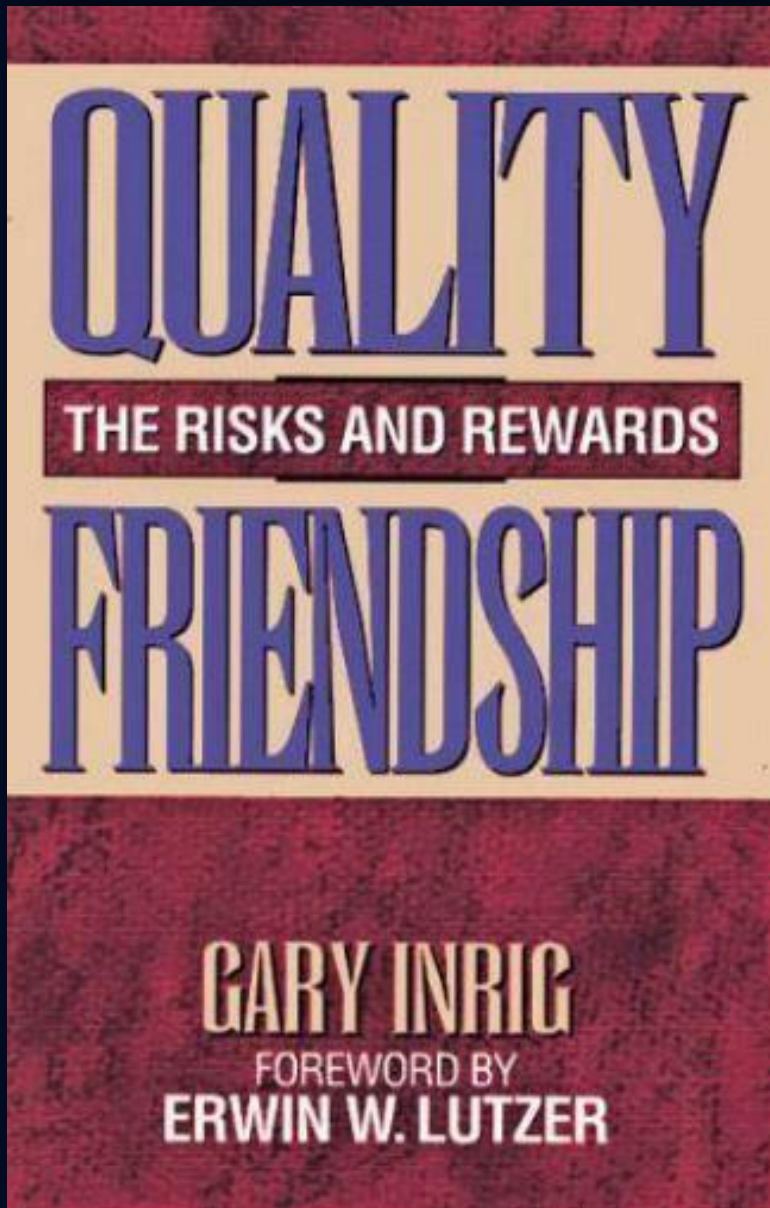
6. Cultivate Envy

You will do anything to get what the other person has.

Jealousy: *grasp what I have.*

Envy: *reach for what he has.*

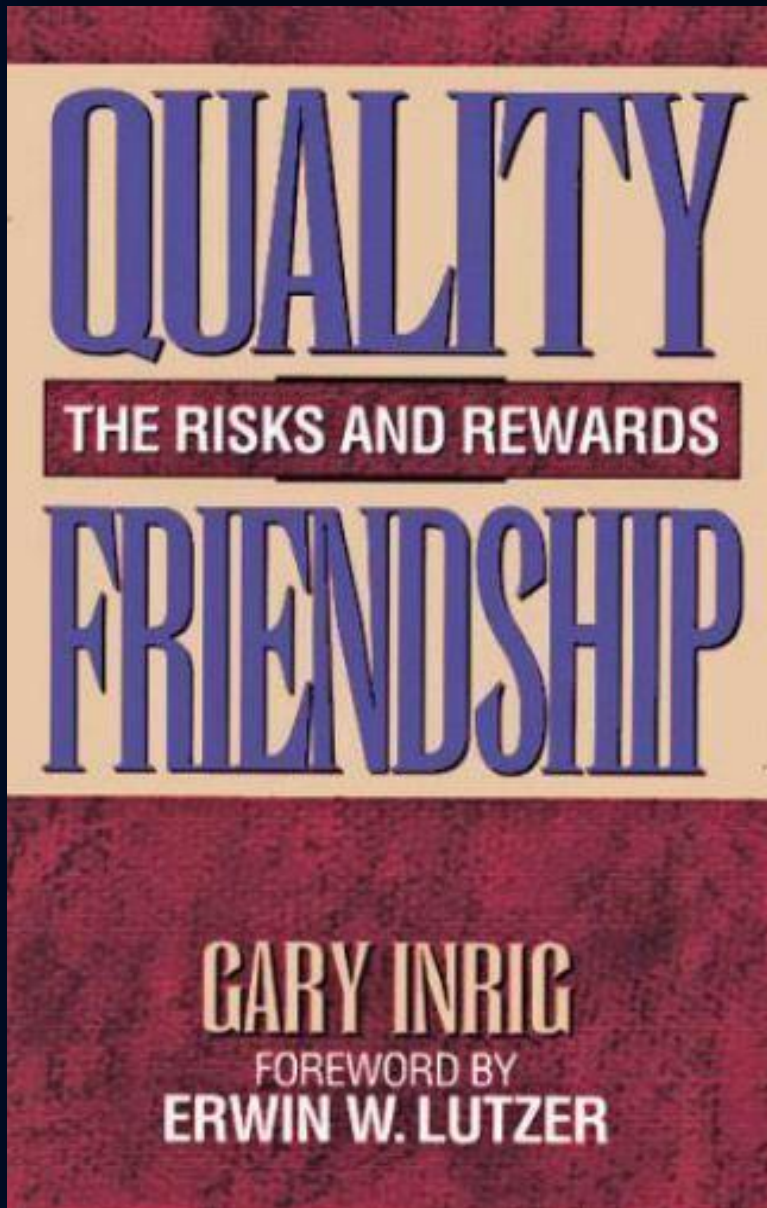
Intimate Friendship



7. Anger and Hatred

Believe that your feeling of contempt for the other person is justified.

Intimate Friendship



David was not
Saul's enemy.

Saul was.

Intimate Friendship

Your spouse is not
your enemy.

You are.

Intimate Friendship

Friendship can be harmed either

actively (*7 attitudes*)

Or (more common) passively (*by neglect*).

What can I do to restore it?

Intimate Friendship

What if we're not friends?

Tim Keller:



Intimate Friendship

I can talk to my guy friends
about things I could never
bring up to her.

Intimate Friendship

Decide I'm going to make
this person my friend.

Intimate Friendship

Negative: *cleansing your body*

Positive: *nourishing and cherishing it*

Intimate Friendship

a private thing

Intimate Friendship

When you get married,
your spouse has complete access.

Intimate Friendship

These things are things
your spouse sees.

Intimate Friendship

Your moods creates problems
for your spouse too.

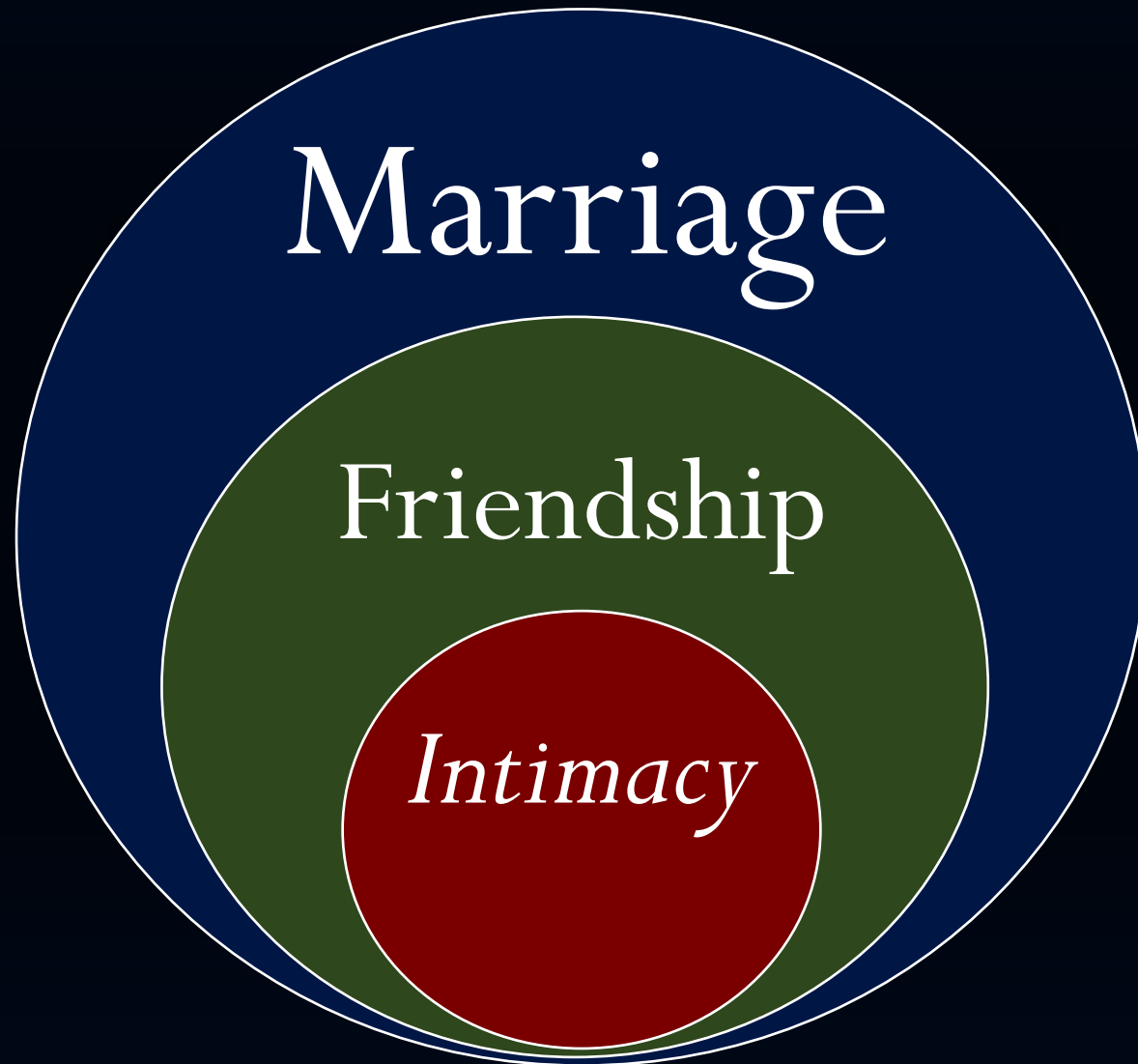
Intimate Friendship

You can't live in denial anymore.

Intimate Friendship

gently...

Intimate Friendship



Marriage

Friendship

Intimacy

Intimate Friendship

Song of Solomon 5.16

This is my beloved and this is my friend. ESV

Such is my lover and my friend. NLT

Intimate Friendship

Characteristics of Quality Friendship

1. Emotional Closeness
2. Self-forgetfulness
3. Communication
4. Vulnerability
5. Intentionality

Intimate Friendship

Characteristics of Quality Intimacy

1. Emotional Closeness
2. Self-forgetfulness
3. Communication
4. Vulnerability
5. Intentionality

Intimate Friendship

Great intimacy is always derived
from great friendship.

Intimate Friendship

Friendship is like Chamomile

(0mg caffeine in 12oz)

Intimacy is like Celsius

(200mg caffeine in 12oz)

Intimate Friendship

How to be intimate friends

~ and ~

How to be friendly intimates

12 suggestions

Intimate Friendship

1. Communication

(easier said than done)

(assessment, expectations, fearless transparency)

Intimate Friendship

2. Exclusivity

(goes without saying...but needs to be said)

Intimate Friendship

3. Closeness

(unresolved conflict always interferes)

4. Preparation

(look nice – smell nice – be nice)

(take a bath – brush teeth – compliments)

Intimate Friendship

5. Affection

(touches outside the bedroom)

6. Intentionality

(willing to plan)

7. Spontaneity

(willing to respond)

Intimate Friendship

Paradox?

(*contentment or improvement*) – both?

(*coasting or tweaking*) – neither?

Intimate Friendship

8. Patience

(willing to go slow)

Intimate Friendship

9. Passion

(willing to let go)

Intimate Friendship

10. Playfulness

(fun, laughter, enjoyment)

Intimate Friendship

11. Variety

(the spice of life)

Intimate Friendship

12. Focus

(I love you...*not: I love this*)

Intimate Friendship

New York Times Bestselling Author of
THE REASON FOR GOD and *THE PRODIGAL GOD*

TIMOTHY
KELLER

with KATHY KELLER

THE
MEANING
OF
MARRIAGE

Facing the Complexities of Commitment
with the Wisdom of God

“Each partner in marriage is to be most concerned not with getting sexual pleasure but with giving it.”

Intimate Friendship

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“The greatest pleasure should be the pleasure of seeing your spouse getting pleasure.”

Intimate Friendship

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THE
MEANING
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“The Bible gives us
a high view of sex.
It is a sign and seal of our
oneness with each other
and with God.”

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TIMOTHY
KELLER

with KATHY KELLER

THE
MEANING
OF
MARRIAGE

Facing the Complexities of Commitment
with the Wisdom of God

“We should not, then,
be surprised to discover
that you may find problems
showing up in bed,
which, if it wasn’t for sex,
you might never have seen.”

Intimate Friendship

Great intimacy is always derived
from great friendship.

Intimate Friendship

Tuesdays

Jake Scott

Intimate Friendship

Two years this summer
I knew it from the day I saw her
We were gonna be together

That's why

I'm here to see her
She doesn't know I'm in Virginia
But I know she's mine forever
So I'm askin' for your blessin'
And maybe just one lesson

He said, "27 years, and here's my takeaway"

Intimate Friendship

It's not just picture perfect dancing in a white dress
It's not just rainy days when nothing stops the fighting

It's not just highs and lows, and champagne toast
I've come to know that love's not only the best days

Or the worst days

Love is the Tuesdays

Yeah, love is the Tuesdays

Intimate Friendship

It's breakfast thrown together
While she's sleepin' in your high school sweater
And you've never seen anything better

It's the season three you're watching
A little bit of evenin' walkin'
And sittin' with your best friend talkin'

Intimate Friendship

No, it's not Hollywood's sign
'Cause troubles will come
But it's the best decision you're ever gonna make

And you've got my blessing
But just hear this lesson
27 years and all I've gotta say...

Intimate Friendship

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