

I. Introduction:

- Proverbs 22:24-25 (ESV) *"Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man, lest you learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare"*.
- Proverbs 13:20 (NLT) *"Walk with the wise and become wise; associate with fools and get in trouble."*

II. The 5 Rings

1. Crowd

- *"I know of you"*

2. Common / (acquaintances)

- People that you know that you do stuff with
These are the people that you interact with regularly.

- *"I know you"*

- **Parents SELECT YOUR KIDS GROUP OF FRIENDS, DON'T PICK THEIR FRIENDS BUT Select the group.**

3. Casual Friends

- Fun stuff
- *"I like you"*

4. Close Friends

- The close circle will be the friends you will turn to in times of need, sadness, and joy This circle is about fun and deep friendship. And when it is healthy, it intentionally touches lives beyond itself.

- *"I understand you"*

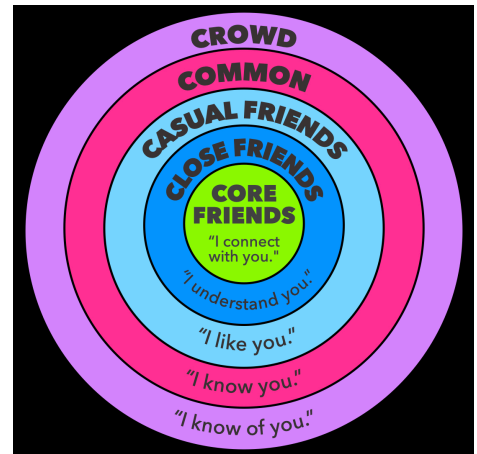
- **You can tell them bad news and they will listen, truly listen**

- Job 2:11-13 (NLT) *When three of Job's friends heard of the tragedy he had suffered, they got together and traveled from their homes to comfort and console him. Their names were Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. When they saw Job from a distance, they scarcely recognized him. Wailing loudly, they tore their robes and threw dust into the air over their heads to show their grief. Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and nights. No one said a word to Job, for they saw that his suffering was too great for words..*

- **You can tell them good news and they will help you celebrate**

- **The want the best FOR THE BEST part of you**

- **They will tell you when you are acting less than who you can be.**



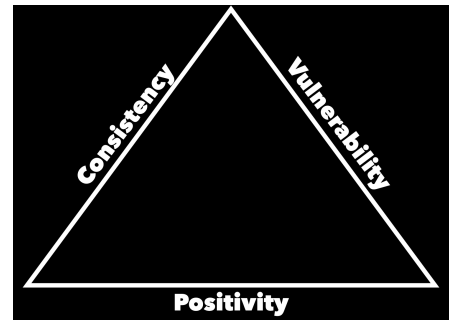
5. Core / best friends/intimate 1-4

- Your core or best friends should only be Christians. Our core circle consists of our closest friends with whom we partner for support, nurture, and accountability. Love us enough and are bold enough to ask us anything about our lives.
- **"I connect with you"**
 - grown connected
 - best friend helps you step out of ego centrism and preps you for next stage

III. Building blocks

• The triangle

- Positivity
 - Proverbs 17:22 (ESV) A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.
 - Proverbs 27:17 (NLT) As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend..
- Consistency
 - Proverbs 18:24 (NIV) One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.
- Vulnerability
 - skeletons, success, history, dreams, feelings and needs
 - James 2:23 (NLT) "And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." [a] He was even called the friend of God."
 - John 15:15 (NLT) "I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me."
- Not satisfied with relationships. How often do you practice the three?



Conclusion

- **Life change happens in the context of relationship**
- **Who is in 5 rings and are they going where I want to be going?**