




**BFF**


# **Becoming Best Friends With God**

*Awesome Relationships Series – Part 2*  
James 4:8; Romans 5:10-11; John 15:15  
Anthony Grove Baptist Church  
Dr. Dennis E. Bean  
April 10, 2016

A graphic showing two hands, palms facing each other, forming a heart shape. The hands are black silhouettes. The background is a gradient of colors from purple at the top to orange and yellow at the bottom, resembling a sunset or sunrise. The heart shape is filled with the same gradient colors.


**James 4:8a**

**<sup>8</sup> Draw close to God,  
and God will draw close  
to you. . . . -- (NLT)**

A graphic of two hands, palms facing each other, forming a heart shape. The hands are black silhouettes against a background with a vertical gradient from purple at the top to red at the bottom. The heart shape is filled with the same gradient, appearing as a bright yellow-orange in the center.

## **Romans 5:10–11**

**<sup>10</sup> For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. <sup>11</sup> So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.-- (NLT)**

A graphic featuring two black hands reaching up from the bottom, their fingers interlaced to form a heart shape. The background is a gradient of colors from purple at the top to red at the bottom, with a bright yellow and orange heart shape in the center, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The text "Exodus 34:14" is written in a bold, cyan-colored font across the top of the heart shape.

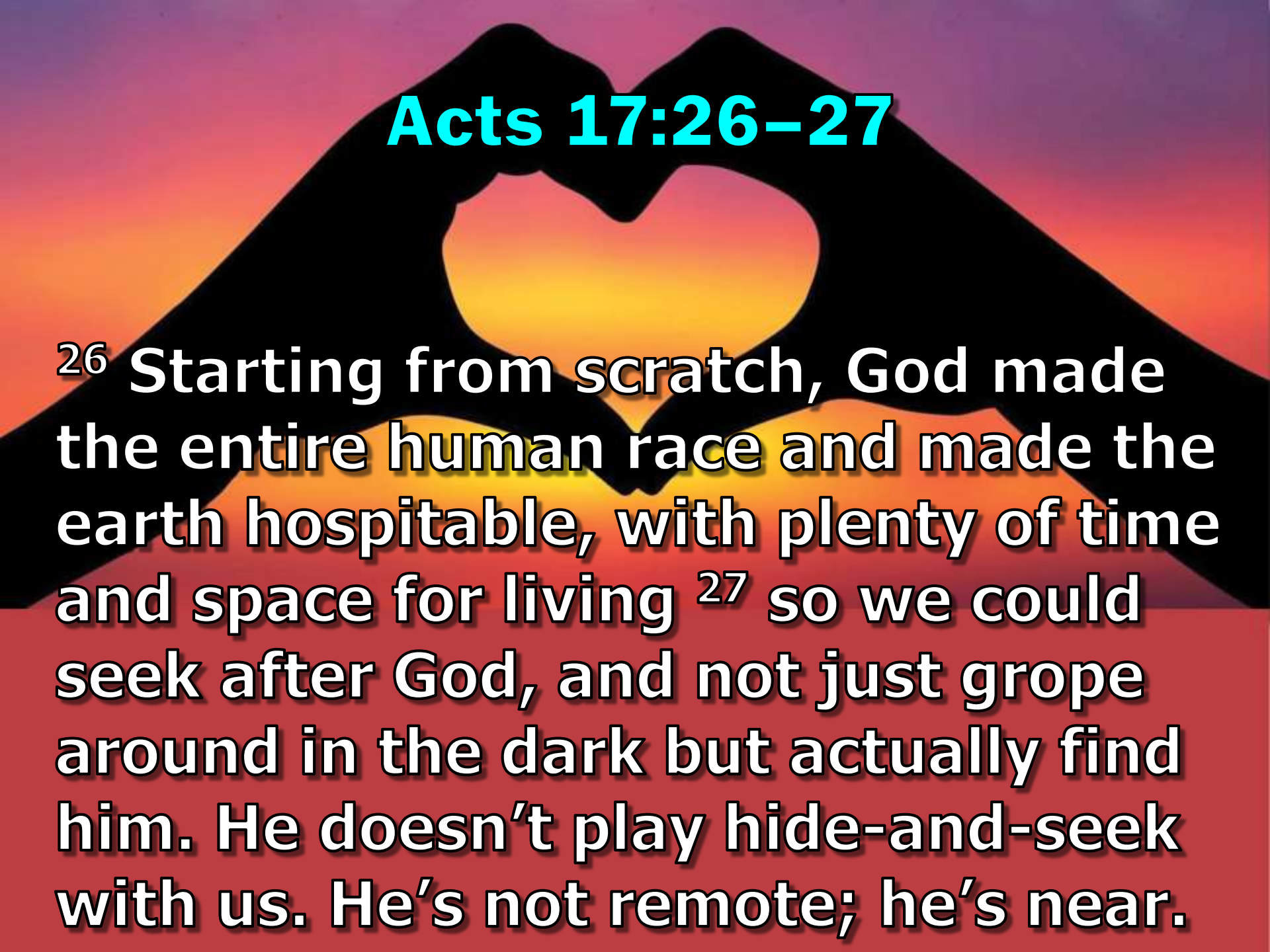
# **Exodus 34:14**

**<sup>14</sup> You must worship no other gods, for the LORD He is a God who is passionate about his relationship with you.-- (NLT)**

A graphic showing two hands, palms facing each other, forming a heart shape. The hands are black silhouettes. The background is a gradient of colors from purple at the top to orange and yellow at the bottom, resembling a sunset or sunrise. The heart shape is filled with the same gradient colors.

## Hosea 6:6

**6 “I don’t want your sacrifices—I want your love; I don’t want your offerings—I want you to know me.-- (TLB)**

A graphic featuring two hands, palms up, holding a heart. The hands are black silhouettes. The heart is a gradient of yellow and orange, matching the sunset background. The background is a gradient from purple at the top to red at the bottom.

## **Acts 17:26–27**

**<sup>26</sup> Starting from scratch, God made the entire human race and made the earth hospitable, with plenty of time and space for living <sup>27</sup> so we could seek after God, and not just grope around in the dark but actually find him. He doesn't play hide-and-seek with us. He's not remote; he's near.**

A graphic showing two black hands reaching up from the bottom to form a heart shape. Inside the heart, the letters 'BFF' are written in a bold, cyan font with a black outline. The background is a gradient of purple, pink, and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise.

**BFF**

***How To Build A Friendship With God***

The background of the slide features a silhouette of two hands, palms facing each other, holding a heart. The heart and the space between the hands are filled with a warm, glowing light that transitions from yellow at the bottom to orange and then to a deep purple at the top. The overall effect is one of love, care, and spiritual warmth.

# **1. Make Knowing God My #1 Priority.**

**Philippians 3:8<sup>8</sup> Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I may know Christ (NLT)**

A graphic showing two hands, palms facing each other, forming a heart shape. The hands are black silhouettes. The background is a gradient of colors from purple at the top to orange and yellow at the bottom, resembling a sunset or sunrise. The heart shape is formed by the negative space between the hands.

# **Jeremiah 29:13**

**13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.-- (NIV)**



## 2. Slow Down & Be Quite

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**Psalm 46:10<sup>10</sup> He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."-- (NIV)**

A graphic showing two hands, palms facing each other, forming a heart shape. The hands are black silhouettes. The background is a gradient of colors from purple at the top to orange and yellow at the bottom, resembling a sunset or sunrise. The heart shape is filled with the same gradient colors.

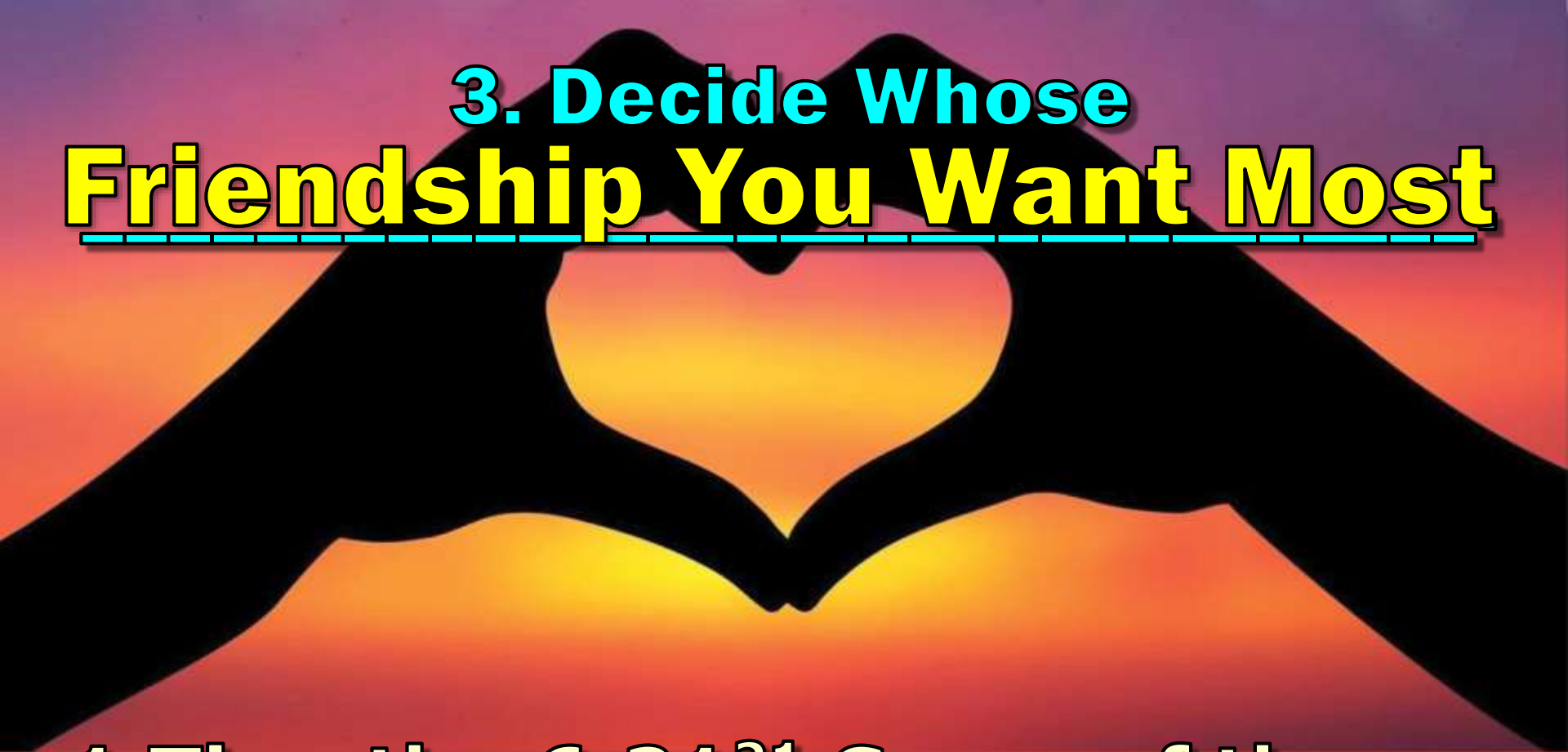
# **Psalm 25:14**

**14 The LORD is a friend to those who reverence him. With them he shares the secrets of his covenant.-- (NLT)**



## Matthew 6:5–6

<sup>5</sup> “And when you come before God, don’t turn that into a theatrical production either. . . . <sup>6</sup> “Here’s what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won’t be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace.-- (The Msg.)

A background image showing two hands, palms facing each other, with fingers slightly curled, forming a heart shape. The hands are dark, and the heart shape is filled with a warm, glowing light that transitions from yellow at the bottom to orange and red at the top. The overall background has a gradient from purple at the top to red at the bottom.


### **3. Decide Whose Friendship You Want Most**

**1 Timothy 6:21<sup>21</sup> Some of these people have missed the most important thing in life—they don't know God. -- (TLB)**

A graphic showing two hands, palms facing each other, forming a heart shape. The hands are black silhouettes. The background is a gradient of colors from purple at the top to orange and yellow at the bottom, resembling a sunset or sunrise. The text "James 4:4" is written in a bright cyan color across the top of the heart shape.

## James 4:4

**<sup>4</sup> So, you are not loyal to God! You should know that loving the world is the same as hating God. Anyone who wants to be a friend of the world becomes God's enemy.-- (NCV)**

A graphic showing two hands in silhouette, positioned to form a heart shape. The hands are set against a background of a sunset or sunrise, with a gradient of colors from purple at the top to orange and yellow at the bottom. The heart shape is centrally located and filled with the same sunset colors.

**John 15:14**

**14 You are my friends if  
you obey me – (NLT)**

A graphic of two hands, palms facing each other, forming a heart shape. The hands are black silhouettes against a background with a vertical gradient from purple at the top to red at the bottom. The heart shape is filled with the same gradient. The text "John 15:9-11" is written in a bright blue, bold, sans-serif font across the top of the heart.

# John 15:9-11

<sup>9</sup> "I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!-- (NLT)



## **4. Maintain A Constant Conversation.**

**1 Thessalonians 5:17<sup>17</sup> Pray  
all the time;-- (The Msg.)**

A graphic showing two hands, palms facing each other, forming a heart shape. The hands are black silhouettes. The background is a gradient of colors from purple at the top to orange and yellow at the bottom, resembling a sunset or sunrise. The heart shape is filled with the same gradient colors.

# **Philippians 3:10**

**My determined purpose is that I may know Him—that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly. (Amp)**



## **5. Trust God** **God In Your Pain.**

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**Psalm 55:22<sup>22</sup> Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall.-- (NIV)**



► **BITTERNESS Is The Greatest  
Barrier To Friendship.**

Hebrews 12:15<sup>15</sup> See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.-- (NIV)

Hebrews 12:15<sup>15</sup> Guard against turning back from the grace of God. Let no one become like a bitter plant that grows up and causes many troubles with its poison.-- (GNB)

A graphic showing two hands, palms facing each other, forming a heart shape. The hands are black silhouettes. The background is a gradient of colors from purple at the top to orange and yellow at the bottom, resembling a sunset or sunrise. The title text is overlaid on the top part of the image.

# ***A Special Word To Three Groups Of People***

**1. Those Who Have Drifted Away.**

**Psalm 51:12<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.-- (NIV)**

A graphic showing two hands, palms facing each other, forming a heart shape. The hands are black silhouettes. The background is a gradient of colors from purple at the top to orange and yellow at the bottom, resembling a sunset or sunrise. The heart shape is formed by the negative space between the hands.

# Jeremiah 15:19

**19 “If you return to me, I will restore you so you can continue to serve me. . . . You are to influence them; do not let them influence you!-- (NLT)**



## **2. Those Who Are Facing Trouble.**

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**Psalm 91:14<sup>14</sup> "I'll get you out of any trouble. I'll give you the best of care if you'll only get to know and trust me.-- (The Msg.)**

A silhouette of a person with arms outstretched, forming a heart shape, set against a vibrant sunset background with orange and yellow hues. The person's head is at the top, and their arms extend downwards and outwards, meeting at the bottom to form the heart's base.

### **3. Those Who Have Never Trusted Christ.**

**James 4:8 <sup>8</sup> Draw near to God,  
and he will draw near to you.  
(ESV)**

A graphic showing two black hands reaching up from the bottom to form a heart shape. Inside the heart, the letters 'BFF' are written in a bold, cyan font with a black outline. The background of the top half of the image is a gradient of purple, pink, and orange, resembling a sunset or sunrise.

**BFF**

**Becoming Best Friends  
With God**