



HAVERHILL
COMMUNITY CHURCH

2009

A Biblical Vision For A Healthy
Local Church

Genuine Christian Community and Relational Vitality (Part 3)

This morning's message is titled:
“Dear Friends”

*“A healthy church is a congregation
that increasingly reflects God’s
character as His character has been
revealed in His word.”*

Mark Dever

(What Is A Healthy Church? P.40)

*“ponder anew, what the Almighty
can do, if with His love He
befriend thee”*

*“Genuine Christian Community
and Relational Vitality”*

...Is another way of saying

“Dear Friends”

*So, being affectionately desirous of you,
we were ready to share with you not
only the gospel of God but also our own
selves (souls), because you had become
very dear to us.*

(1 Thessalonians 2:8 ESV)

*For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, **making peace by the blood of his cross**. And you, **who once were alienated and hostile in mind**, doing evil deeds, **he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death**, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,
(Colossians 1:19-22 ESV)*

Q: How are you doing sharing the Gospel of God with one another?

But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children.

(1 Thessalonians 2:7 ESV)

For you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

(1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 ESV)

*Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his **friends**. You are my friends if you do what I command you. 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.*

(John 15:13-15 ESV)

The elder, To my **dear friend** Gaius, whom I love in the truth. (2) **Dear friend**, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well. (3) It gave me great joy to have some brothers come and tell about your faithfulness to the truth and how you continue to walk in the truth. (4) I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. (5) **Dear friend**, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers, even though they are strangers to you. (6) They have told the church about your love. You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God. (7) It was for the sake of the Name that they went out, receiving no help from the pagans. (8) We ought therefore to show hospitality to such men so that we may work together for the truth. (9) I wrote to the church, but Diotrefes, who loves to be first, will have nothing to do with us. (10) So if I come, I will call attention to what he is doing, gossiping maliciously about us. Not satisfied with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers. He also stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the church. (11) **Dear friend**, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God. (12) Demetrius is well spoken of by everyone—and even by the truth itself. We also speak well of him, and you know that our testimony is true. (13) **I have much to write you, but I do not want to do so with pen and ink.** (14) **I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face.** Peace to you. The **friends** here send their greetings. Greet the **friends** there by name.

3 John 1:1-14 NIV

*Praise to the Lord, Who doth prosper
thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy here
daily attend thee.*

*Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
If with His love He befriend thee.*

AMEN!