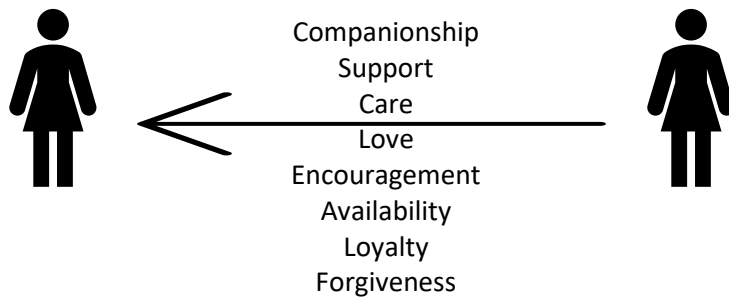
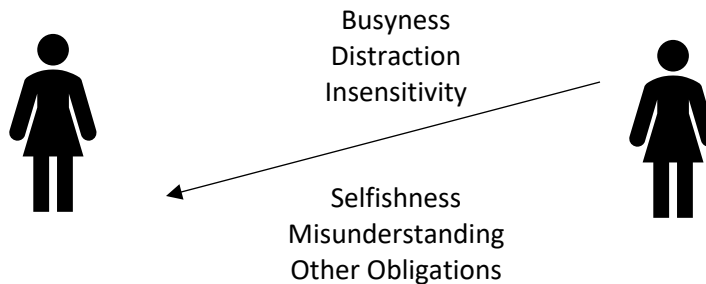


World's View of Friendship

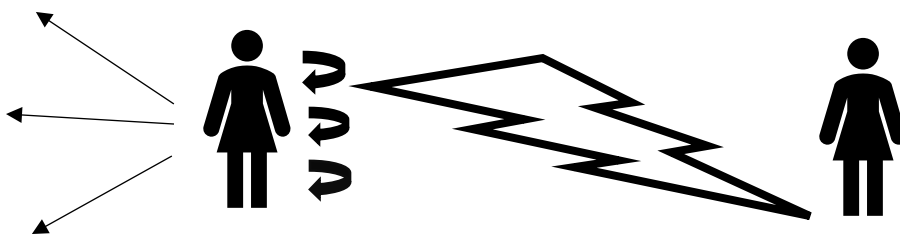
Expectation #1: My friend will meet all my needs (she exists for me)



Reality: My friend will fail or be unable to meet my needs

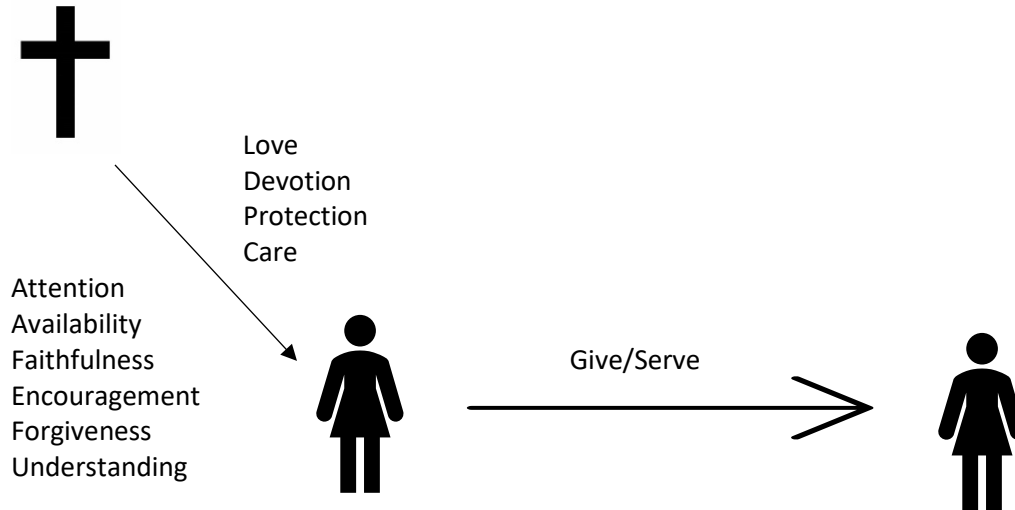


Result: I may become demanding or manipulative
I may harbor hurt, anger, bitterness toward my friend
I may sin against my friend in word or deed
I may abandon the friendship
I may turn my hurt, anger, bitterness inward



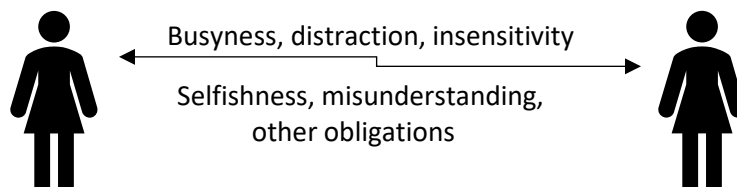
God's View of Friendship

Expectation #1: Jesus Christ will meet all my needs.

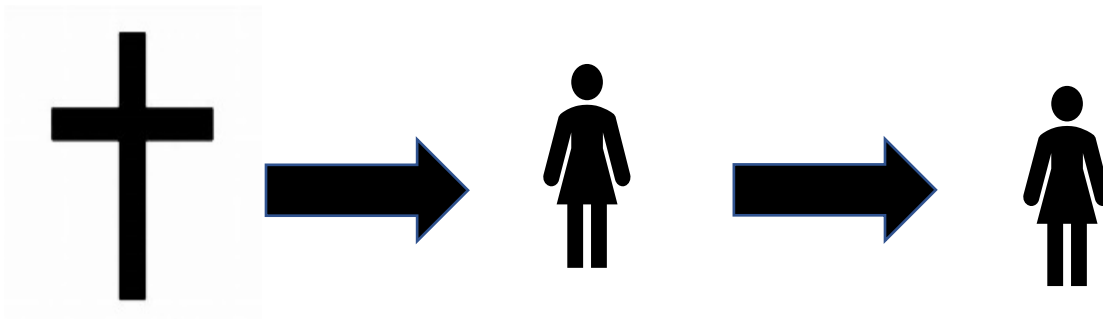


Expectation #2: God has given me to my friend to love and serve. God meets my needs. My fullness overflows to bless my friend.

Reality: My friend is unable to meet all my needs just as I am unable to meet all her needs.



Result: Because my needs are fully met in Christ, I am free to forgive, love, and believe the best about my friend regardless of her failures or shortcomings.



Friendship Diagram Scriptures

- **Jeremiah 17:5-8** – Compares looking to people for your source of life and security to looking to God. It describes what life is like with both.
- **Matthew 22:36-40** – This is the obvious one commanding that we love others as ourselves.
- **Romans 13:8-10** – This passage explains Matthew 22:36-40. We have a debt to love others because we have been loved and real love doesn't harm others.
- **1 Corinthians 13:4-7** – These verses list what real love looks like. When we don't extend things to others we are actually only loving ourselves and using them.
- **Galatians 5:13-26** – This passage shows us that when we live by the sinful nature we are not free. In fact, we are in bondage to our own selfishness. Living free from sinful bondage by keeping in step with the Spirit produces beautiful fruit that blesses others, brings joy, and never puts us in danger of living as a lawbreaker. On the other hand, living out of the flesh (sin nature) ends in destruction of relationships.
- **Philippians 2:1-18** – Here we see that imitating the humility of Christ in putting other's needs above our own results in shining like the stars in the universe because our love for others speaks volumes about how our testimony of salvation is being worked out. The ultimate result is gladness and rejoicing.