Sunday, September 13, 2026

The Pursuit of Love— "Phileo Love: Friends are Friends Forever If the Lord's the Lord of Them"

Pastor Mike Anderson

"Friends are friends forever when the Lord's the Lord of them!"

-Michael W. Smith

Definition: Phileo love is defined as a tender, emotional affection, fondness, or friendly love for someone. It is also called "brotherly love." Unlike *agape*, which is often described as unconditional, sacrificial, and driven by a deliberate choice of the will, *phileo* is a heart-centered, emotional love that instinctively flows from mutual connection, shared fellowship, and deep personal attachment.

How is a friendship based on "phileo" love different from other friendships?

1. A friendship that is <u>rooted</u> in Christ!

2. A friendship which contains the <u>fellowship</u> of the Holy Spirit".

3. A friendship where we can speak the <u>truth</u> in <u>love</u> and keep each other <u>accountable</u>.

4. A friendship that lasts <u>forever</u>.

Questions for Reflection:

Do you have any "forever" friends? If not, what can you do to find them?

How can you befriend those who don't know Christ? I.e. <u>Make</u> a friend. <u>Be</u> a friend. <u>Lead</u> a friend to Christ!

What a friend we have in Jesus!