



Roundtable: Friendships while Dating

Guests:

Brock, Emerson, Lauren

TAPING:

July 22, 2025

1:15 pm

AIRDATE:

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Podcast open

- Traditional Open
- **Inbox:** We're answering a question submitted by one of you guys today that reads, "I want to start serving in church and not just be a consumer, but I am afraid of committing to a church home—help! Vince Hoppe will answer.
- **Culture:** Mark Bates joins us to answer another question for our culture segment, about why it's important to know theology and doctrine for ourselves, and from the church we attend. We'll also talk about when it's appropriate to move to a different church.
- Time now for our Roundtable ...

Roundtable: Friendships while Dating

Guests:

Brock Carpenter — Engaged to Lauren on June 1. “[Since] my first [relational] priority shifted to my fiancée, I’ve seen both a deepening and a loss of friendship with my [guy friends]. I’ve [shared] the joys of engagement with my friends in similar walks” and spent less time with other friends who grew apart. “I feel like both are normal as I continue to grow in my relationship with Lauren.”

Emerson Collins — Two years married, Ruth has a 8-year-old son Eli. “Ruth and I were blessed that we shared a friend group, and in dating we were intentional about spending time with them together. When we started dating, our friendships strengthened because the other couples in the group [organized double dates with us].”

Lauren Huitsing — Engaged to Brock on June 1. “It’s easy for [my] friends to feel neglected since I’m not spending as much time with them anymore. I experienced some tension in my friendships as I navigated Brock becoming my No. 1 relational priority. I’ve learned to accept friendships drifting or my circle becoming smaller.”

Questions:

- Let’s think back to when you guys first started dating. How did your friendships change then?
- How did you communicate the change of seasons to your friends when you started dating?
- How have your boundaries changed in your friendships with the opposite sex? What did your conversations about this look like with your significant other?
- Who did you turn to for counsel during the changing of seasons?
- How did you navigate the temptation to spend *all* your time with your significant other and completely ignore your other friends?
- How have your relationships with your families (and now future in-laws) changed when you started seriously dating, and then when you got engaged?
- What did it look like for you to be intentional about maintaining your friendships throughout the dating, engagement and marriage seasons?