

## Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

<sup>9</sup>Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. <sup>10</sup>For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up.

<sup>11</sup>Furthermore, if two lie down together they keep warm, but how can one be warm alone? <sup>12</sup>And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart.

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### SERMON NOTES

July 12, 2015

T. Don Guthrie, preaching

## The Rules

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

- The Rules: Time-tested Secrets for Capturing the Heart of Mr. Right  
--Ellen Fein, Sherrie Schneider

Things that work. Rules that lead to success.

Wisdom literature in the Bible.

- Fill your life with friends

The example of David

The example of Jesus

Proverbs 3:3-4

<sup>3</sup>Do not let kindness and truth leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. <sup>4</sup>So you will find favor and good repute in the sight of God and man.

Kindness – George Saunders, Syracuse University, 2013

“I regret the failures of kindness...”

Truth – Ephesians 4:15

Make friends with your adversary at law  
while you are with him on the way.” (Matthew 5:25)

How have I been wise with my friendships? How have I been foolish?

- Wisdom has its limits

*hebel* – things visible, therefore, temporary, “vanity”

Ecclesiastes 3:11 – “eternity in their heart”

1 John 2:17 “The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.”

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“The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person.”

(Ecclesiastes 12:13)