



[Dependable \(Luke\)](#)

Wayne Braudrick

[Life Change: We stand by the Lord and His people](#)

Selected texts

June 7, 2026

Genesis 2:18...

Virtus – the character traits that allow for strong friendships

The need:

The Premise: Friendship faces very tough times. On the whole, fewer and fewer Americans describe themselves as having good friends. Our amount of social acquaintance networking is ironically juxtaposed on the reality that people have an increasingly difficult time finding healthy friendships. Therefore, we desperately need to understand the virtues of biblical friendship and learn from those who practiced it.

The plan:

Proverbs 18:24

The theme (*what the study is about*): By looking at the friends of the Apostle Paul, we see some people who stayed in godly relationships over the long haul. By examining the lives & character of these saints, we can find and seek to emulate the traits that make for godly friendships.

The objective (*what we hope to see God accomplish in us through the study*): That we would let God transform us into people whose character reflects the traits that make for faithful and virtuous friendship.

A tale of two friends – Luke & Demas

Colossians 4:14

These were people of prestige

These were people who worked in harmony together

Philemon 23-24

But Demas eventually deserted

2 Timothy 4:9-11
James 4:4-6

Luke remained dependable

What kind of life will we build – dependable or not?

2 Timothy 1:15-18
James 4:7-10

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PAUL'S VALUABLE PARTNERS

V I R T U S



Aquila & Priscilla

Typollos

John Mark

Epaphroditus

EPAPHRAS

Titus **TIMOTHY**

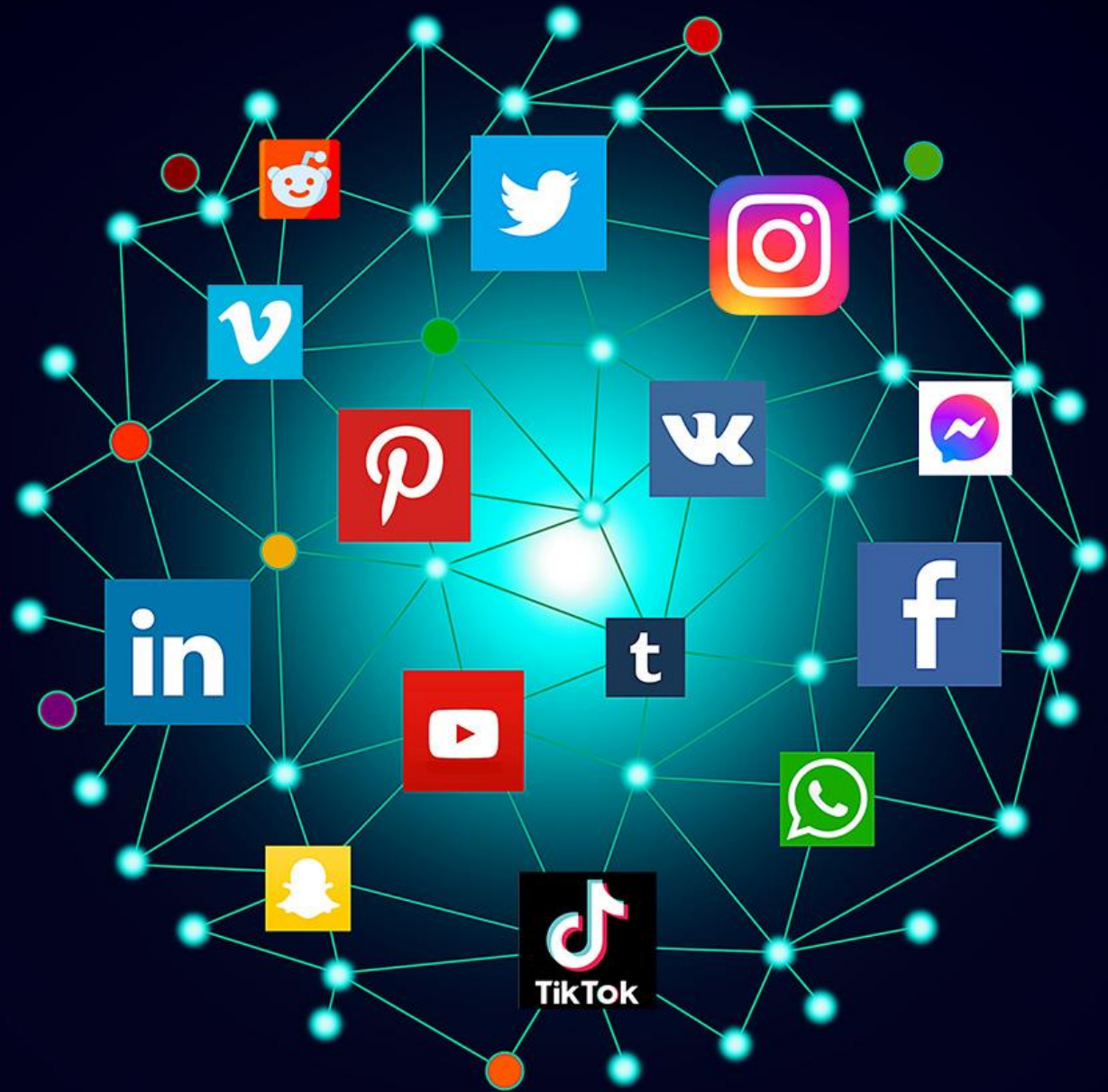
Luke

Barnabas

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE

**18 Then the Lord God said,
“It is not good
for the man to be alone.”**

Genesis 2 CSB





courtesy istock

**That's why I only make friends
with animals**



In our connected information age, why isn't real friendship ubiquitous? Because the issues of humanity are the same in every age – real connection with real friends requires certain character.

**VIRTUS = the character traits that allow
for strong relationships**

**Virtus celebrated on an AD
305 Roman coin**



One of the most important attributes of a Roman was *virtus*, for which the modern derivative 'virtue' is a poor translation. *Virtus* embraced all the important martial [warlike] qualities, including not just physical courage and skill at arms, but also the moral courage and other gifts of a commander...*Virtus* meant that any setbacks, however appalling, must be endured and the war continued until ultimate victory was achieved. – Adrian Goldsworthy, *In the Name of Rome*



VIRTUS

Virtus is excellence and courage that doesn't quit. It takes the long hard road for growth and rejects shortcuts.





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OXFORD STUDIES IN
HISTORICAL THEOLOGY

Roman Virtue
in the Early
Christian Thought
of Lactantius



JASON M. GEHRKE

From Cato the Elder [ca. 160 B.C.] and Marius [ca. 100 B.C.] to Julius Caesar [ca. 50 B.C.] and his Augustan heirs [ca. 30 B.C. – A.D. 400], debates raged about the nature [of virtus] and the lack of it in Roman society. – Jason M. Gehrke, *Roman Virtue in the Early Christian Thought of Lactantius*

A society that cannot maintain virtue becomes unproductive and economically vulnerable, as Roman history proves. Lack of virtue makes it very difficult for productive work to be done because all work requires relational strengths of one kind or another.

The analysis [of 45,000 responses to the Welch-Bristol Values Inventory] produced a number that startled my co-researchers and me. A mere 2% of Generation Z members hold the values that companies want. – Suzy Welch, director of NYU’s Stern School of Business Initiative on Purpose and Flourishing, “Is Gen Z Unemployable?”



The most important skills workers need to build are not just technical, but interpersonal and strategic—the human values of working in teams, applying critical



thinking, being creative, communicating effectively by reading the room...managing conflicting feedback, and synthesizing complex information. – Maureen Heymans, General Manager for LearnX at Google *quoted in Jane Thier, “So Such Thing as Work-Life Balance”*

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Americans appear to be suffering a loss in the quality and quantity of close friendships...25% of Americans have no close confidants, and the average total number of confidants per citizen has dropped from four to two. – McPherson, Smith-Lovin, Brashears, “Social Isolation in America”



The reason we have more acquaintances & fewer friends is that we are losing the cultural character assets that allow real friendships to blossom. – McPherson, Smith-Lovin, Brashears, “Social Isolation in America” in *American Sociological Review*

Friendship faces very tough times. On the whole, fewer and fewer Americans describe themselves as having good friends. Our amount of social acquaintance networking is ironically juxtaposed on the reality that people have an increasingly difficult time finding healthy relationships. Therefore, we desperately need to understand the virtues that undergird biblical friendship and learn from those who practiced it.

PREMISE



Apostle Paul
based on Pyotr Basin
ca. 1900

We're going to look at the Apostle Paul – a man of virtue – and specifically examine his friends. From Paul & his comrades we'll learn how to apply the virtues of friendship to our lives. That will change us and radiate outward to shape the world around us.

**²⁴ A man of many
companions
may come to ruin,
but there is a friend
who sticks closer than a
brother.**

Proverbs 18 ESV

PAUL'S VALUABLE PARTNERS

V I R T U S

Aquila & Priscilla

John Mark



Apollos

Epaphroditus

By looking at the friends of the Apostle Paul, we see some people who stayed in godly relationships over the long haul. By examining the lives & character of these saints, we can find and seek to emulate the traits that make for godly friendships.

THEME

By looking at the friends of the Apostle Paul, we see some people who stayed in godly relationships over the long haul. By examining the lives & character of these saints, we can find and seek to emulate the traits that make for godly friendships.



True friendship consists not in the multitude of friends, but in their worth and value. – Ben Jonson

Dependable – Luke

Noble – Apollos

Industrious – Epaphroditus

Encouraging – Barnabas

Refreshing – Titus

Maturing – John Mark & Timothy

Unifying – Aquila & Priscilla

Gracious – Epaphras

**Virtues in Paul's
Friends**

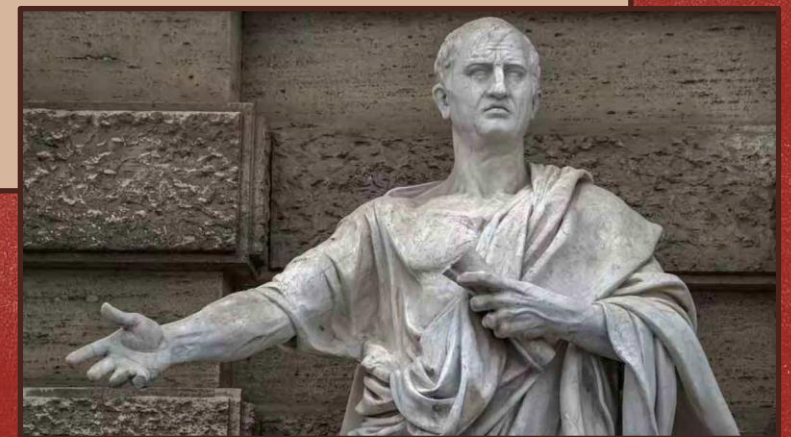
Objective (what we hope to see God accomplish in us through the study): That we would let God transform us into people whose character reflects the traits that make for faithful and virtuous friendship.

**17 A friend loves at all times,
And a brother is born
for adversity.**

Proverbs 17 NASB

**It is virtue [virtus], virtue, which both creates and
preserves friendship. On it depends harmony of interest,
permanence, fidelity.**

– Cicero, *On Friendships*



14 Luke, the dearly loved physician, and Demas send you greetings.



2 COR

GAL

EPH

PHIL

COLOSSIANS

1 THESS

2 THESS

1 TIM

2 TIM



Luke

Nanni di Banco

1408-15

23 Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings, and so do 24 Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my coworkers.

Philemon CSB



**ruins of Colossae's
acropolis**

24 my coworkers. Philemon CSB

Greek: συνεργοί sunergoi
(sun + ergon)
Sun = unified; oneness of
purpose among comrades. (Used
of heroic companions Jason &
the Argonauts)



**Greek: συνεργοί sunergoi
(sun + ergon)
Sun = unified; oneness of
purpose among comrades.
Ergon = old-fashioned
word for hard work; toil**



Despite his relatively old age, Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus, a Roman patrician born around 519 BC, diligently worked his small farm until an invasion led his fellow citizens to seek his leadership. Within just 16 days, he achieved victory in the war, relinquished power, and returned to his plow.



**Greek: συνεργοί sunergoi (sun + ergon)
= People who work hard in harmony
together**

Apostle Paul
Rembrandt
1657

**13 No one
has greater love than
this:
to lay down his life for
his friends.**

John 15 CSB





**Greek: συνεργοί sunergoi (sun + ergon)
= People who work hard in harmony
together**

Apostle Paul
Rembrandt
1657

¹⁴ Luke, the dearly loved physician, and Demas send you greetings.

Colossians 4 CSB

²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings, and so do ²⁴ Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my coworkers.

Philemon CSB



Apostle Paul writes
Rembrandt
1630

4:9 Make every effort to come to me soon, ¹⁰ because Demas has deserted me, since he loved this present world, and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹ Only Luke is with me.

COL

1 THESS

2 THESS

1 TIM

2 TIMOTHY

TITUS

PHILEM

HEB

JAMES

The prison where his friends were languishing seemed wretched alongside the music-haunted, scented, dazzling halls of Empire. Thus, Paul had to write one of the most heartbreaking lines in his letters: "Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world." This man of wavering impulse who surrendered the passion of sacrifice and sank in the swirling waters of the world is a true reflection of the thought that where we set our hearts, our bodies will finally be. – Herbert Lockyear,
All The Men of the Bible



⁹ Make every effort to come to me soon, ¹⁰ because Wayne has deserted me, since he loved

2 Timothy 4 CSB

Apostle Paul writes
Rembrandt
1630

¹⁰ because _____ has deserted me, since he loved fame...simplicity...money...prestige...honor...glory...sex...cars...power...lack of frustration...

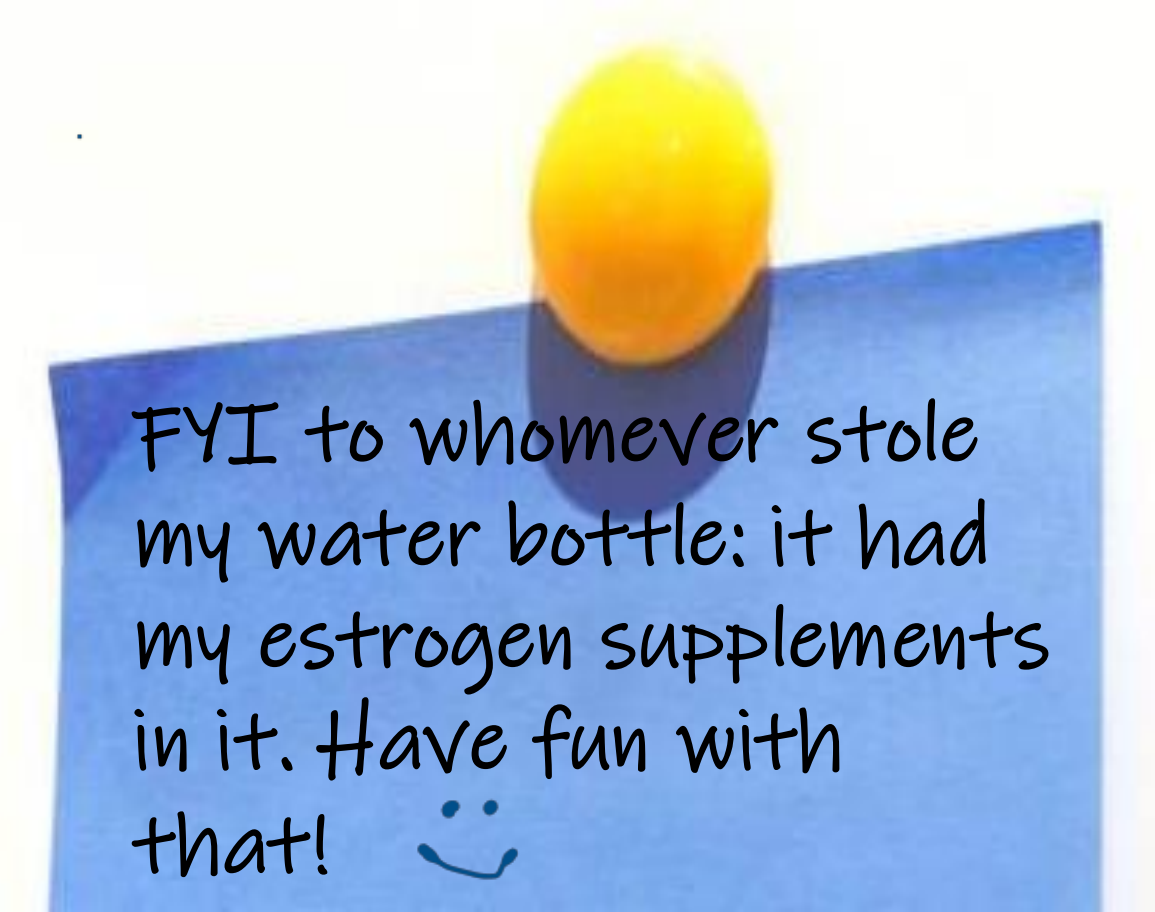




Strange new trend at the office
People putting names
on food in the
company fridge.
Today, I had a tuna
sandwich named Steve.



someecards
user card



FYI to whomever stole
my water bottle: it had
my estrogen supplements
in it. Have fun with
that! 😊



**Yes! My name
IS Dave.
Thanks for the
free drink.
Daves 4 life!!!**

Jesus is watching you...



...steal Diet Cokes

Jesus is watching you...



...steal Diet Cokes

John 7:37

Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink."

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2 Timothy 4 CSB

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courtesy animalia

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2 Timothy 4 CSB



**Built on the cheap;
makes people weep.**



**Built strong
to last long.**

15 You know that all those in the province of Asia have deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes. **16** May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. **17** On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he diligently searched for me and found me. **18** May the Lord grant that he obtain mercy from him on that day. You know very well how much he ministered at Ephesus.

2 Timothy 1 CSB



Quincy Carter



Troy Aikman

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Perhaps the most painful thing I remember from my early childhood is that when my father came home, I never knew if he was going to be drunk or sober. I was disappointed most of the time. Even when he promised to change, he never did. So, from an early age I told myself I will never be like him. (mostly positive). But I also grew up being wary of ever fully trusting anybody. (big negative).

Thankfully, The Lord rescued me from the darkness of myself, and He is working on my heart to know and love Him for who He is, to love my brothers as He loves me, and to love my wife as Jesus loves the church. This changes everything for the better.

4 You adulterous people! Don't you know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? So whoever wants to be the friend of the world becomes the enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you think it's without reason that the Scripture says: *The spirit he made to dwell in us envies intensely?* [Exodus 20]

**⁶ But he gives greater grace. Therefore he says:
*God resists the proud
but gives grace to the humble.* [Proverbs 3]**

James 4 CSB

⁷ Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Be miserable and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

James 4 CSB

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James 4 CSB

Greek: μετατρέπω metatrepo = amid all the stuff of life, let turning happen; a passive verb for a passive action. Get out of the way and let the Lord turn your heart around.

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EPAPHRAS

Luke



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Titus **TIMOTHY**

Barnabas