

The Divine Antidote For Loneliness

Lisa Harper

How Not to Ruin Your Life

Week 3

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Proverbs 17:17 (ESV)

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Proverbs 18:24 (ESV)

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

Proverbs 13:20 (ESV)

Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

Proverbs 18:1 (ESV)

Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment.

To the ancients, friendship seemed the happiest and most fully human of all loves; the crown of life and the school of virtue. The modern world in comparison, ignores it ... affection and eros (romantic love) were too obviously connected to the brutes. You could feel these tugging at your guts and fluttering in your diaphragm. But in friendship—in that luminous, tranquil, rational world of relationships freely chosen—you got away from all that. This alone, of all the loves, seemed to raise you to the level of gods or angels. —C.S. Lewis

Four Characteristics of True Friendship

Constancy

Proverbs 17:17 (NIV)

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.

Carefulness

Proverbs 16:28 (NIV)

A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends.

Candor

Proverbs 27:5–6 (NIV)

Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

Counsel

Proverbs 27:9 (NIV)

Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice.

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