

The Wisdom of Friendship

LESSONS FROM PROVERBS

INTRODUCTION

- 1: What True Friendship is and is not**
- 2: Warnings About the Choice of Friends**



A. What True Friendship is and is not!



1. A True Friend Is Loyal, Not Casual

(Proverbs 17:17): "*A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.*"

Two Teachings

a. A True Friend is Always a Friend

Psalm 15 asks the question “Who can live on God’s Holy Mountain?” One of those criteria is a man who keeps his word even when it costs him something. *A True Friend Loves at ALL Times.*

a’ **Contrast the Casual Friend from Proverbs 19:6-7:** “Many seek favors from a ruler; everyone is the friend of a person who gives gifts! The relatives of the poor despise them; how much more their friends avoid them! Though the poor plead with them, their friends are gone.”



b. *A brother is born for adversity.*

One of the reasons you were purposed on this earth is to stand by a friend when he is going through difficult times.

b'. The Casual friend is one who will not remain for the hard times

All Relationships are Transactional

CONSTANCY IS A HALLMARK OF TRUE FRIENDSHIP

Proverbs 20:6 is realistic!

“Many a man proclaims his own steadfast love, but a faithful man, who can find?”

Seeking friendships like this is using godly wisdom

But is it not also teaching about being one?

2. A True Friend is Transparently Honest

Proverbs 27:5, 6 ESV): “*Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.*”

Are you willing to open yourself up to a trusted friend and ask him to help you see yourself as others see you? “Without the perspective of others, we will never know our strengths and weaknesses.” (Tim Keller)

Further Instruction

Proverbs 27:17: “*As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.*”

God wants Christian Men to Challenge One Another

“Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear”
(Ephesians 4:29).

So then let us pursue what makes for peace for mutual upbuilding”
(Romans 14:19).

*But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’,
that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin”*
(Hebrews 3:13).



With how many men do you share a relationship where mutual counsel and critique are allowed and valued?

What is the main barrier that prevents it?

B. A Warning about the Choice of Friends

True Friends are Few and Hard to Find; Choose Wisely

Proverbs 12:26 NIV: "The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray."
Proverbs 22:24-25: "Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered,²⁵ or you may learn their ways and get yourself ensnared."

Proverbs 12:26 NIV: "The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray."

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Proverbial Truths Summary

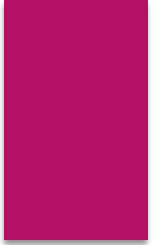
True friendship is characterized by constant, unwavering love and loyalty,
c. How have you chosen your close friends?
Are your friends able to be openly transparent and candid with you?
Are they an influence for godliness and righteous living?
Does your temper affect your ability to be a true friend?
Are you able to trust someone enough to be transparent with them?

The BEST Friend – John 15:15

"I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you,"

Jesus demonstrates the qualities of a true friend: He shows selfless love, even to the point of laying down his life. He is loyal, truthful, compassionate, and constant

Friendship with Jesus involves a personal relationship: It's not just about adhering to rules, However!!! but about having an open relationship where we can be honest and share our deepest and darkest needs.



Friendship with Jesus is not a relationship of equals: While Jesus
Emphasizes friendship, it usually involves obedience that He emphasizes.
The Bible says that no one who calls Him Lord will deny Him. We can't have
this deep and personal friendship with Jesus, but at the same
time, approach Him with reverence and godly fear