

10/1/23

# Friends

*“The LORD God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone.’”  
Genesis 2:18a (NIV)*

## I. Layers of Friendship

1. Be friendly to everyone.
2. Casual friends come from circumstances.
3. Close friends come by choice.

*“Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.” Proverbs 13:20 (ESV)*

## II. Types of People to Avoid for Close Friends

1. People who like to argue. Proverbs 20:3
2. People who gossip. Proverbs 20:19
3. People who flatter. Proverbs 29:5
4. People who have a temper. Proverbs 22:24
5. People engaged in sexual sin.

*“When I wrote to you before, I told you not to associate with people who indulge in sexual sin. But I wasn’t talking about unbelievers who indulge in sexual sin, or are greedy, or cheat people, or worship idols. You would have to leave this world to avoid people like that. I meant that you are not to associate with anyone who claims to be a believer yet indulges in sexual sin, or is greedy, or worships idols, or is abusive, or is a drunkard, or cheats people. Don’t even eat with such people.” 1 Corinthians 5:9-11 (NLT)*

## III. Types of People to Choose for Close Friends

1. Choose close friends who **BUILD YOU UP SPIRITUALLY.**

*“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up...” 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)*

2. Choose close friends who will **HAVE YOUR BACK IN TOUGH TIMES.**

*“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.” Proverbs. 17:17 (NIV)*

3. Choose close friends who **MAKE YOU BETTER.**

*“Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.” Proverbs 13:20 (ESV)*

## IV. How Do I Find A Great Friend? **BE A GREAT FRIEND.**

1. Be **NICE.**

*“A cheerful look brings joy to the heart...” Proverbs 15:30 (NLT)*

2. Ask **GOOD QUESTIONS** and be a **GOOD LISTENER**.

*“Don’t just think about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too...” Philippians 2:4 (TLB)*

3. Be **LOYAL**.

*“There are “friends” who pretend to be friends, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”  
Proverbs 18:24 (TLB)*

- Show up.
- Don’t talk about them behind their back.
- Speak the truth in love.

4. **LOVE HARD**.

*“Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory.” Romans 15:7 (NLT)*

*“You go...I go.” Backdraft*

*Keep the conversation going...*

1. What characteristics do you look for in a friend?
2. What differences have good friends made in your life?
3. How would you describe the friendship you have with Jesus?
4. If you could make a just one change in any of your friendships, what would it be?