

Response Questions

March 28, 2021

Proverbs 17:17; 18:24; 27:6; 13:20; 19:4; 14:20; 12:26; 22:24-25; 20:3; 18:1; 22:11; 27:9

Uncommon Sense Concerning Friendship

1. Who is your longest standing friend and how did you first meet?
What is it about this person that has caused you to remain friends all this time?
2. We often talk about considering how to spend our money or who the right person to marry is, or what career to choose, but do we spend the same amount of time thinking about who we spend our time and energy on in friendship? Or do friendships just happen? Are they a function of who we grew up with, who we live next to or work with or who's in our family? Do we simply choose the first person who comes along offering friendship? Discuss.
3. Solomon speaks about qualities that we should consider important in a good friend. Summarize those he outlines in the following verses: Proverbs 11:13; 17:9; 17:17; 19:11; 20:3; 22:11; 27:9.
4. Why is it important to have good friends? See 12:26; 18:1; 18:24.
5. Solomon speaks about negative character traits that make a person undesirable as a friend. Summarize what he says in these verses: 13:10; 15:18; 16:28; 18:1; 25:19; 25:20; 26:18-19.
6. Proverbs 13:20 tells us we should only walk with the wise, but then how should we help those whom by Solomon's standards are fools? What does it look like for the wise to be in a friendship where they are ministering to someone who needs to be sharpened and brought closer to Jesus?
7. What are some of the benefits of friendship? See 27:17; 13:20; 17:17.
8. What does it mean that "Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses."? (Proverbs 27:6) Have you experienced either of these in your friendships?
9. Take a moment to think about your part to play in your friendships (consider what you do and don't do; what you say and don't say). Are you the type of person that displays the servanthood of Christ in your friendships? What could it look like this week to, "...look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others?" (Philippians 2:4)