



**Craig Smith • Friendship • November 8, 2020**

**Who is/was your best friend? What made them that way?**

*He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm. (Prov. 13:20)*

Read through the following bullets with the Proverb verse. Next, identify any of those negative attributes you might find in yourself...

*Proverbs teaches you about the friend(s) to avoid...*

- **The fake friend** – “Wealth brings many friends, but a poor man’s friend deserts him.” (Prov. 19:4)  
*Many curry favor with a ruler, and everyone is the friend of a man who gives gifts. (Prov. 19:6)*
- **The gossip friend** – “A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends.” (Prov. 16:28)
- **The angry friend** – “Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered, or you may learn his ways and get yourself ensnared.” (Prov. 22:24-25)
- **The needy friend** – “Seldom set foot in your neighbor’s house – too much of you, and he will hate you.” (Prov. 25:17)
- **The unreliable friend** – “Like a bad tooth or a lame foot is reliance on the unfaithful in times of trouble.” (Prov. 25:19)
- **The reality-avoider friend** – “Like one who takes away a garment on a cold day, or like vinegar poured on soda, is one who sings songs to a heavy heart.” (Prov. 25:20)

*Proverbs teaches you about the friend(s) to be and have...*

Read through the following bullets with the Proverb verse. Next, identify any of those positive attributes you might find in yourself.

- **The gracious friend** – “He who covers over an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.” (Prov. 17:9)
- **The faithful friend** – “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.” (Prov. 17:17)

*A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. (Prov. 18:24)*

- **The redemptive friend** – “Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.” (Prov. 27:6)
- **The discerning friend** – “Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of one’s friend springs from earnest counsel.” (Prov. 27:9)

*“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.” (John 15:15)*

**What are some ways you can work on the more positive friend attributes and alleviate more of the negative?**