



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?