

October 20th – The Value of a Friend

“As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.” (Prov. 27:17)

God made us humans to be relational creatures. Just look back to the Garden of Eden – “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him” (Gen. 2:18). From Eve’s creation all the way until now, we’ve never had to worry about being in this world by ourselves. Yet, while there are about 8 billion people in this world, it is entirely possible for someone to feel all alone.

God does not intend for us to live the Christian life by ourselves. Someone once said, “There are no lone ranger Christians.” God has given us one another as a gift and He intends for us to use our relationships to strengthen one another and to glorify Him. Today’s verse tells us that just as iron sharpens iron, so a good friend will sharpen the countenance of his companion. In other words, we can blow wind into the sails of a friend’s life through our love and encouragement.

Another great thing about friendships is the possibility for accountability. Some people use the term “accountability partner” to speak of a friend that challenges us to grow in our walk with Christ by encouraging us to steer clear of the sins of this world. Do you have someone in your life that can ask you the hard questions? If not, I encourage you to find such a person. Do all you can to strengthen his life and allow him to do the same for you.