

THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

(Godly Wisdom – Our Compass at the Crossroads of Life)

Part 20 – Building Your Community

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Proverbs 17:17 (NLT), "A **friend** is always **loyal**, and a **brother** is born to help in **time of need**."

John 15:13 (NLT): "There is **no greater love** than to **lay down one's life** for one's **friends**."

1. We are created for _____.

Genesis 2:18a, "And the Lord God said, 'It is **not good** that man should be alone.'"

Psalms 68:6, "God sets the **solitary** in **families**."

Ephesians 2:19 (TLB), "Now you are no longer strangers to God and foreigners to heaven, but **you are members of God's very own family**, citizens of God's country, and **you belong in God's household** with every other Christian."

2. Avoid the _____ kind of friends.

Proverbs 14:7 (NLT), "**Stay away from fools**, for you won't find knowledge on their lips."

2 Timothy 3:4-5 (NLT), "They will **betray their friends**, be reckless, be puffed up with **pride**, and love pleasure rather than God. ⁵ They will **act religious**, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. **Stay away from people like that!**"

1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV), "Do not be misled, **bad company corrupts good character**."

Proverbs 4:14-15 (NLT), "Don't do as the wicked do, and **don't follow the path of evildoers**. Don't even think about it; go a different way. **Turn away and keep moving**."

3. Attract the _____ kind of friends.

Proverbs 12:26 (NIV), "The righteous **choose their friends carefully**, but the way of the wicked leads them astray."

Proverbs 27:5-6 (NLT), "An open rebuke is better than hidden love! **Wounds** from a **sincere friend** are better than many **kisses** from an **enemy**."

Proverbs 24:26 (TEV), "An **honest answer** is a sign of a **true friendship**."

Proverbs 27:17 (NLT), "As iron sharpens iron, so a **friend sharpens a friend**."

4. Be a _____ friend.

Proverbs 20:6, "Many people **claim to be a friend**, but it's rare to find someone who is **truly faithful**."

Philippians 2:4 (NCV), "Do not be interested only in your own life, but **be interested in the lives of others**."

Galatians 6:2 (NLT), "**Share** each other's **troubles** and **problems**. In this way you obey the law of Christ."

1 Corinthians 13:7 (LB), "If you love someone, **you'll be loyal to them no matter what the cost**. You will **always believe** in them, always **expect the best**, and always stand your ground in **defending** them."

Romans 12:4-6 (NLT), "⁴ Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, ⁵ so it is with **Christ's body**. We are **many parts of one body**, and **we all belong to each other**. ⁶ In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well."
