

## How to Be a Wise Friend Selected Proverbs

### Do we need friends?

#### 1. Friendships in Proverbs

A. Having a lot of friends isn't necessarily \_\_\_\_\_ thing to do.  
Prov. 18:24

B. Having \_\_\_\_\_ is not necessarily the wisest thing to do either.

C. Having \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Friends (and Being that Friend) Is Better

I. \_\_\_\_\_ your friends wisely

a. We must have \_\_\_\_ friends. Prov. 13:20

b. We should avoid being friends with bad \_\_\_\_\_. Prov. 22:24-25; Prov. 14:17

But bad temper does not only apply to temperament, but characteristics that are harmful according to Proverbs such as gossiping (16:28), being wicked, cruel and violent (1:10-11), being foul-mouthed (2:12-13), having a critical spirit, being impulsive (16:32), being lazy, being greedy, being a glutton and drinker (23:20-21)

2. \_\_\_\_\_ a good friend (like a brother or sister)

a. A good friend \_\_\_\_\_ at all times. Prov. 17:17

David and Jonathan were friends who showed this kind of friendship. 1 Sam. 18:1-4; 20:4

b. A good friend is \_\_\_\_\_ with his words (avoid unwise words). Prov. 27:14

There are several questions we need to ask before we do or say something:  
*Is it appropriate in this context?*  
*How will he take what I'm going to say or do?*  
*Is it the right time?*

c. A good friend gives \_\_\_\_\_ (wise) counsel. Prov. 27:9

d. A good friend strives for friendship to \_\_\_\_\_. Prov. 27:17; 27:6

1). Being accountable and hold others accountable. Prov. 27:17

2). Offering personal \_\_\_\_\_. Prov. 27:6

3). \_\_\_\_\_ to gossip about his friends. Prov. 17:9; 16:28

e. A good friend is \_\_\_\_\_ in difficult times. Prov. 27:10

f. A good friend does not seek his own \_\_\_\_\_ or discriminate based on socioeconomic criteria. Prov. 19:6-7

#### II. Christ's Example as a Friend - John 15:12-17; Hebrews 2:11

A. Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ who lays down his life (shows sacrificial love) for his friends. John 15:13

"Greater love hath no one than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

1. The Lord gave his life as a sacrifice to deliver us from eternal death.

"Friend, what are you here for? Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and seized him." (Matthew 26:50).

2. The Lord, through His sacrifice, showed love and restored our relationship with God. James 2:23; Rom. 5:10

3. His example of love is the basis for loving others as He loved us. Ephesians 2:16

B. Christ's friends \_\_\_\_\_ Him (have a relationship with Him) John 15:14-15

"You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you."

"Let us reveal our bosom to [a friend], and let him reveal his to us. Therefore, he said, I have called you friends, because all that I have heard from my Father, I have made known to you. Therefore a friend hides nothing, if he is true: he pours forth his mind, just as the Lord Jesus poured forth the mysteries of his Father." - Ambrose

"His friendship is more than the model for human love and friendship; Jesus' friendship becomes the source of disciples' capacity for friendship... Through friendship we come to know God and through friendship we enact the love of God. We can risk being friends because Jesus has been a friend to us." - I Have Called You Friends by Gail R. O'Day

C. Christ's friends are \_\_\_\_\_ by Him vv. 16-17

1. Chosen to \_\_\_\_\_ permanent fruit v. 16a

"You did not choose me, but I chose you, and I appointed you to go and bear fruit, and your fruit to remain."

*"About 2000 years ago he gathered his small group of friends and apprentices on the slopes of Galilee and sent them out to "teach all nations" Matthew 28:19-20 (even), that is, to make students (apprentices) of all ethnic groups to him. His goal is to eventually bring all human life on earth under the direction of his wisdom, goodness, and power, as part of God's eternal plan for the universe." - Renewal of the Heart, Dallas Willard, 6-7.*

2. Chosen to have an intimate, personal \_\_\_\_\_ with the Father through Him v. 16b

"That whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he may give it to you."

3. Chosen to show \_\_\_\_\_ to others as He did v. 17

"These things I command you, so that you will love one another." v. 17

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." v. 12

*"But taking love itself-God's kind of love- into the depths of our being through spiritual formation will, by contrast, enable us to act lovingly to an extent that will be surprising even to ourselves, at first." - Renovation of the Heart, Dallas Willard,18*

*D. In Christ, our relationship as brothers and sisters \_\_\_\_\_ that of friends*  
" For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers." Hebrews 2:11

### **Conclusion:**

- Do you know Christ as a friend?

*Get Christ's love shed abroad in your hearts, and your mother's love, your daughter's love, your husband's love, your wife's love, will become more sweet than ever. The love of Christ cast not out the love of relatives, but it sanctifies our loves, and makes them sweeter far. Remember, dear hearer, the love of men and women is very sweet; but all must pass away; and what will you do, if you have no wealth but the wealth that fadeth, and no love but the love which dies, when death shall come? O! to have the love of Christ! You can take that across the river of death with you; you can wear it as your bracelet in heaven and set it up as a seal upon your hand; for his love is "strong as death and mightier than the grave." C.H. Spurgeon*

### **Who are your friends?**

#### **Ask and search!**

*"To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will twist and possibly break. If you want to make sure you keep it intact, you shouldn't give it to anyone, not even an animal. Wrap it neatly with hobbies and small luxuries; Avoid all entanglements. Keep it in the coffin or coffin of your selfishness. But in that chest, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It won't break; It will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable." - C.S. Lewis, The Four Loves*

- Are you the good friend?

**Grow and change!** Review the list above.  
You need to get out of your \_\_\_\_\_ zone.  
Be that good and wise friend.  
Be \_\_\_\_\_!