



Proverbs 17:17 (ESV)

February 21, 2021

A friend loves at all times,
and a brother is born for adversity.

Proverbs 18:1

Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire;
he breaks out against all sound judgment.

Proverbs 18:24

A man of many companions may come to ruin,
but there is a friend who sticks closer than a
brother.

Proverbs 25:17

Let your foot be seldom in your neighbor's house,
lest he have his fill of you and hate you.

Proverbs 25:20

Whoever sings songs to a heavy heart
is like one who takes off a garment on a cold day,
and like vinegar on soda.

Proverbs 26:18–19

¹⁸Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows,
and death
¹⁹is the man who deceives his neighbor
and says, "I am only joking!"

Proverbs 27:5–6

⁵Better is open rebuke
than hidden love.
⁶Faithful are the wounds of a friend;
profuse are the kisses of an enemy.

Proverbs 27:14

Whoever blesses his neighbor with a loud voice,
rising early in the morning,
will be counted as cursing.

John 15:13–15

¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone
lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my
friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No 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.

INTRODUCTION:

"There is no book, even in classical literature, which so exalts the idea of friendship, and is so anxious to have it truly valued, and carefully kept. . . . The Book of Proverbs might almost be called a treatise on friendship."

- *Hugh Black*

1. Why true friendship matters

Proverbs 18:1

Three factors that hinder true friendships

- a. Busyness
- b. Technology
- c. Mobility

2. What true friendship looks like

a. A true friend is intentionally committed

Proverbs 17:17

Proverbs 25:17

Proverbs 18:24

b. A true friend is emotionally connected

Proverbs 26:18–19

Proverbs 27:14

Proverbs 25:20

“This world is full of sorrow because it is full of sin. It is a dark place. It is a lonely place. It is a disappointing place. The brightest sunbeam in it is a friend. Friendship halves our troubles and doubles our joys.” —J.C. Ryle

“Anxiety in a man’s heart weighs him down,
but a good word makes him glad.” Proverbs 12:25

c. A true friend is gently honest

Proverbs 25:5–6

“A true friend always lets you in, and never lets you down.” —Tim Keller

“When you have found such a man, and proved the sincerity of his friendship; when he has been faithful . . . to you, grapple him to yourself with hooks of steel and never let him go.” —Charles Spurgeon

3. How to become a true friend

John 15:15

John 15:13

a. Repair broken friendships

b. Pray about friendship

c. Make efforts toward friendship

“Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket—safe, dark, motionless, airless—it will change. It will not be broken; it will be unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. . . . We shall draw nearer to God, not by trying to avoid the sufferings inherent in all loves, but by accepting them and offering them to Him.”
—C.S. Lewis

d. Trust God’s hand in your friendships

“We think we have chosen our [friends]. In reality, a few years’ difference in the dates of our births, a few more miles between certain houses, the choice of one university instead of another . . . the accident of a topic being raised or not raised at a first meeting—any of these chances might have kept us apart. But, for a Christian, there are, strictly speaking, no chances. A secret Master of the Ceremonies has been at work. Christ, who said to the disciples “You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you”, can truly say to every group of Christian friends “You have not chosen one another but I have chosen you for one another”. —C.S. Lewis