



Lesson #1: Wise Counsel on Friendship

In the days of brief, surface relationships, it is necessary that the wise Christian realize the need for good quality Christian friendships. To be successful, we need to have friends and to be a friend but good friendships do not just happen. Good friendships are _____, brick by brick. For this reason, we must establish biblical principles with which we can build the structure of strong friendships. There is no finer book from which to glean principles for friendships than the book of _____. As we look at this book we will see that a friend is someone who cares about the life and interests of others. Therefore, the opposite of friendliness is _____.

Let's look at what the wisest man that ever lived (Solomon) has to say about building wise friendships.

WHAT PROVERB'S TEACHES ABOUT _____ FRIENDS

A. Practical tips for making friends

1. **The friendly person _____**
No one wants to be with someone that never pays attention to others. You must learn to _____. In other words, you need to quit doing anything else and simply listen.
2. **The friendly person _____**
If you have really paid attention, your response will have genuine meaning.
3. **The friendly person _____**
If you are happy _____, it will show on the _____ (Proverbs 15:13). Frank Hamrick suggests that smiling requires self-forgetfulness, reflects warm-heartedness, and relaxes nervousness.

B. Scriptural tips for making friends

1. **The true friend overlooks the _____ of other (Prov. 17:9)**
The verbal violator causes friends that respect one another to become enemies. No one trusts a _____!
2. **The true friend _____ fright (Proverbs 18:24)**
Don't let the fear of the unknown stand in the way of Christian fellowship.
3. **The true friend _____ failures (Proverbs 22:11)**
No one wants a friend that can't be _____. People can buy courses on social conduct but no one can buy _____.

WHAT PROVERB'S TEACHES ABOUT _____ FRIENDS

Solomon points out that some people possess character flaws that will cause them to lose friends.

- A. **The _____ man will lose his friends (Proverbs 22:24)**
When an angry man explodes, he scalds those around him. Uncontrolled anger can be one of the most destructive forces in any relationship.
- B. **The _____ man will lose his friends (Proverbs 27:14)**
The insincere flatterer should be avoided. Flattery and _____ are never appropriate elements of a strong Christian friendship.
- C. **The _____ man will lose his friends (Proverbs 16:28)**
One preacher put together a helpful acrostic using the word "THINK" to help him avoid gossip.
 - T** – Is it _____?
 - H** – Is it _____?
 - I** – Is it _____?
 - N** – Is it _____?
 - K** – Is it _____?

WHAT PROVERB'S TEACHES ABOUT _____ FRIENDS

- A. **To keep your friends you must be careful in you _____**

(Proverbs 6:1-3)
Many friendships are destroyed because of financial and material loans. Low cost loans may cost much in terms of friendship.
- B. **To keep your friends you must be willing to _____ for one another (Proverbs 17:18)**
Do you really want to enrich your friendship? Make yourself available during the time of _____. Many are present in times of happiness, but in time of sorrow, when solace is most need, a true friendship is _____.
- C. **To keep your friends you must be willing to _____ (Proverbs 17:9)**
A friend must be willing to forgive the failures of others. Forgiveness is an _____ element of friendship.
- D. **To keep your friends you must be _____ (Proverbs 17:10)**
Solomon urges us to be loyal to our friends despite the circumstances. _____ friendship, but _____ proves is.
- E. **To keep your friends you must be _____ in your _____ (Proverbs 27:6)**
Solomon tells us that true friends must at times be willing to "stick their necks out" and give the counsel that is good and true. An old Jewish proverb states, "A friend is one who _____ you."

Concluding Thoughts

God is a God of joy. He rejoices in His creation, and He especially rejoices in the salvation of lost sinners. If we are God's children, then we are in tune with the heart and character of God and should thus be characterized by _____ as well. "The joy of the Lord" should characterize our _____ and our _____. For Christians joy is not an _____ for we are commanded to experience and to express joy as Christians.

Because of his position in Christ, the believer can find true joy!