

Proverbs

A Faithful Friend

Introduction

In Proverbs, a fool is identified as someone with a lack of friends or poorly chosen friends. Friendships are essential to the life of wisdom we are called to pursue.

Discussion Questions

- God gives family for support during hard times [17:17]. However, there are certain friends, that are closer and more committed than even family [18:24]. Do you have any friends who you rely on more than your own family? How do you know they are committed to you? How did you choose each other as friends?
- Getting honest counsel from friends can be painful [27:6]. Yet their commitment to you is what brings healing [27:9]. What areas in life do you need the most counsel? What areas are the most painful for you to receive counsel? How have friends helped you in these areas?
- Motives are an often misunderstood yet essential element that allows friendships to flourish [22:11]. How do you determine if someone has good intentions? When do you examine your own heart regarding counsel you may give? What are the criteria for moving forward?
- Friendships are often forged through understanding. A lack of understanding is also what ruins many others [25:20]. What areas of life do you feel least understood? What areas of life do you feel most understanding of others? How do you cultivate sensitivity in your life?
- Circumstances often reveal who your true friends are [19:6-7]. What has shown some friends to be circumstantial in your life? What circumstances are the most influential in you maintaining friendships?

Think About It

Often we think we don't need others, but we weren't created to accomplish things alone. God created us to need him and to need each other. The Bible teaches us that we must overcome the barriers of fear, pride, and independence to find faithful and fruitful friendships.

What Will You Do?

Choose your friends wisely and value them greatly. Seek to be the friend to others that you long to have for yourself. Remind yourself that Jesus calls us friends and lays down his own life that we might live. Let the gospel define your counsel and commitment to others.

Renewing Your Mind

The Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness" — and he was called a friend of God. [James 2:23]

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! [Ecclesiastes 4:9-10]

Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm. [Proverbs 13:20]

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. [Proverbs 17:17]

Oil and perfume make the heart glad, and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel. [Proverbs 27:9]

Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy. [Proverbs 27:5-6]

Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another. [Proverbs 27:17]

Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. [James 4:4]

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. 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. [John 15:13-15]

Prayer Requests

