

# The Bible and Friendship

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The Bible says to have friends, we should show ourselves to be friendly. The proverbs contain much wisdom about both being a friend and how to find a friend. There are fewer things in life that are more valuable than a good friend and the Bible is full of stories of some of the greatest friendships in history.

## To Find a Friend, Be a Friend

The Bible shows us how to make friends. As **Proverbs 18:24** says, *“A man that has friends must show himself friendly, and there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother.”* There is a key to having loyal friends or making friends in the first place. You have to show yourself friendly.

## The Trust of a Close Friend

A friend keeps a friend’s secrets to himself as **Proverbs 17:9** says, *“He who covers and forgives an offense seeks love, but he who repeats or harps on a matter separates even close friends.”* That is, a friend doesn’t gossip about friends faults and is quick to forgive them. A friend who repeats a matter (or gossips) can separate “even close friends.” That is a key to true friendship. If you repeat something that a friend entrusted you with, that will likely be the end of that friendship or in the least, they will never come to you in confidence again.

Your true friends will not be afraid to tell you the truth even at the risk of hurting your feelings.

## Friends Tell You the Truth

Your friends will tell you the truth even when it hurts. As **Proverbs 27:5-6** says, *“Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful”*

It is better to hear it from a friend if you are doing something wrong because they truly care enough about you. A friend doesn’t want to see you hurt. The point is that the truth sometimes hurts, but flattery or patronizing someone in the end, usually does more harm than good.

## Choose Your Friends Carefully

A person becomes more like those that they associate with. This is why it is critically important to choose your friends wisely. **Proverbs 13:20** warns us that we should *“Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.”* Just like we are told, “you are what you eat”, so too we are warned to *“not make friends with a hot-tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered, or you may learn their ways and get yourself ensnared”* **Proverbs 22:24-25**. Bad company corrupts good morals almost every time. You not only become “ensnared” by them but “you may learn their ways.” If you associate with hot-tempered people, you’re going to become hot-tempered yourself. Most often, we become like those we associate with.

## Godly Friends Beget Godly Behavior

David understood that Jonathan was a true and loyal friend. He was a worshiper of the true God. In **Psalms 119:63** it says, *“I am a friend to all who fear you, to all who follow your precepts.”* Those who fear God (which is a reverence and high respect for God) are good companions and make excellent friends. You will soon discover that their godly values will rub off on you and these types of friends can be accountability partners to each other. *“The fear of the Lord – that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding”* **Proverbs 28:28**.

## Fair and Foul Weather Friends

Friends are those that stick with you during the hard times. Trials and adversity can usually separate true friends from those who are just fair-weather friends. Why? Because, *“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity”* **Proverbs 17:17**. Jonathan and David had one of the greatest friendships ever known. So much so that, *“Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself”* **I Sam. 18:3**. When people get married they often say they married their best friend. In fact, it is recommend for betrothed or engaged couples to become friends first and foremost, before they get married. This type of friendship is an image of the relationship that Christ has for the church. A relationship where He literally died for His bride. In this same way, a friend loves his or her friend as they love themselves – through thick and thin, sickness and health, poverty and wealth.

## Bible Verses About Friendship: 20 Good Scripture Quotes

What does the Bible say about Friendship? How are we to choose our friends? How should friends treat one another? All of these are good questions and the Bible has some good Scriptures to study to answer them. I am sure you came to this article looking for some great Bible Verses so I will leave you to them and let them do the speaking on the important subject of friendship.

## Jesus on Friendship

**John 15:12-15** *“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay 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.*

## Greatest Friend is God

**James 4:8** *Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*

## How To Pick Your Friends

**Proverbs 12:26** *One who is righteous is a guide to his neighbor, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.*

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

**Proverbs 14:6-7** *A scoffer seeks wisdom in vain, but knowledge is easy for a man of understanding. Leave the presence of a fool, for there you do not meet words of knowledge.*

**Proverbs 22:24-25** *Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man, lest you learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare.*

**1 Corinthians 15:33** *Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.”*

## How To Treat Your Friends

**Luke 6:31** *And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.*

**Romans 12:10** *Love one another with brotherly affection. Out do one another in showing honor.*

**Ephesians 4:29-32** *Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

**Colossians 3:12-14** *Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.*

## Importance of Friendships

**Proverbs 11:14** *Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.*

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

**Proverbs 19:20** *Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.*

**Proverbs 24:5** *A wise man is full of strength, and a man of knowledge enhances his might,*

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

## Bible Examples of Friendship

- **Ruth and Naomi**

**Ruth 1:16-17** *But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you."*

- **David and Jonathan**

**1 Samuel 18:1-3** *As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. And Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father's house. Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul.*

- **Job's Friends**

**Job 2:11** *Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that had come upon him, they came each from his own place, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. They made an appointment together to come to show him sympathy and comfort him.*

- **Elijah and Elisha**

**2 Kings 2:2** *And Elijah said to Elisha, "Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel.*

## C.S. Lewis Friendship Quotes

*“Friendship is unnecessary, like philosophy, like art... It has no survival value; rather it is one of those things that give value to survival.”*

*“Is any pleasure on earth as great as a circle of Christian friends by a good fire?”*

*“The next best thing to being wise oneself is to live in a circle of those who are.”*

## True Friendship Bible Study: Key Takeaway

The fact is that friends are indispensable in this life. The older a person gets the more valued their friendship becomes. Many friends are closer than brothers or sisters are to each other. There is something special about having a friend that you can confide in, tell your troubles too, and share your life with. It has been said that a sorrow shared is halved, but a joy shared is doubled. **Proverbs 27:10a** says, *“Do not forsake your friend or a friend of your family”* because you may need that friend in a day of trouble. The value of friends is one of the most important things in a person’s life: Their worth are not diminished by time, not devalued by inflation, not worn out by use, but like a fine wine, they improve with time. So are friends to those who have them; like medicine to the soul or as **Proverbs 27:9** says, *“Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice.”*

Research and Bible study's can be found at: <http://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com>