

Making Friends

I. The Premise of a Friend

- A. A friend is one who is intimately close to another (Proverbs 17:17).
- B. A friend is one who is familiar with and connected to another in productive God honoring way (Proverbs 17:17).
- C. A friend is one who is so close they become family in a good way (Proverbs 18:24).

II. The Prerequisite to a Good Friendship (being a Friend of God)

- A. A friend of God has faith in Jesus Christ (James 2:23).
- B. A friend of God obeys what God says (John 15:12-17).
- C. A friend of God breaks away from worldliness (James 4:4-8, 1John 2:15-17).
- D. A friend of God loves others as commanded by God. (John 15:12-17).

III. The Practice of a Friend

- A. A friend provides support in times of trouble (Proverbs 17:17).
- B. A friend tells you the truth even when it hurts (Proverbs 27:6).
- C. A friend does not abandon you in time of need (Proverbs 27:10).
- E. A friend is able to give and receive counsel (Proverbs 27:9).
- F. A friend is willing to sacrifice his life for you (John 15:13).

IV. The Priorities of a Friend

- A. A true friend should seek to lead you to be reconciled to God the Father through Christ Jesus our Lord (2Corinthians 5:11-21).
- B. A true friend should lead you to belong to the community of Christ (Hebrews 10:19-25).
- C. A true friend should help you to become like Christ in your character and lifestyle (Colossians 1:28-29, Ephesians 4:11-16).

V. The Principles for building a Friendship

- A. Consider the interest of others above your own (Philippians 2:3-4).
- B. Serve one another (1Peter 4:10).
- C. Speak the truth at all times with love (Ephesians 4:15,25,29).
- D. Support one another in time of need(1John 3:17-18).
- E. Confront sin in the lives of others (Galatians 6:1-2).
- F. Let others know when they have sinned against you (Luke 17:3).
- G. Forgive others accordingly (Ephesians 4:32).
- H. Be a good listener (Proverbs 20:5, Proverbs 18:13).
- I. Be patient with others (1Corinthians 13:4).
- J. Don't cause others to stumble (Romans 14:13-21).
- K. Be kind to one another (Ephesians 4:32).

VI. The Problems that can ruin a Friendship

- A. Lacking loyalty and confidentiality (Proverbs 16:28).
- B. Confessing sin without repenting of sin (Proverbs 17:9).
- C. Insulting or disgracing a friend (Psalm 15:3).
- D. Having a bad temper (Proverbs 22:24-25).

VII. The Procedure for addressing problems in a Friendship

- A. Get the log out of your eye first (Matthew 7:3-5).
- B. Free yourself from your sin first (Proverbs 28:13-14, 1John 1:9).
- C. Confess your sins to your brother (James 5:16).
- D. Go and show your brother his faults (Luke 17:3, Proverbs 27:6).
- E. If he repents forgive him and move on in the friendship (Luke 17:3).
- F. If he does not repent take witnesses to seek to settle it (Matthew 18:15-20) .
- G. If he does not repent take it to the leadership of the Church (Matthew 18:15-20).

VIII. The Particulars to discuss about Friendship

- A. What ways are you showing yourself to be a friend?
- B. Are you helping people draw close to God or are you helping them to fall away from God?
- C. Are you helping people build good friendships or are you breaking up intimate friendships?
- D. Are you helping others function as God intended?
- E. Who is receiving the benefits of your friendship?
- F. Who is not but needs to receive the benefits of your friendship?
- G. What people in your life fit the description of a friend as described above?
- H. If no one in your life fits the description what conclusions can you draw?
- I. What friendships have you broken off lately and why?
- J. What was the main thing that ruined the friendship?
- K. How did you contribute to the ruin of the friendship?
- L. Do you think the friendship can be repaired? Why or why not?