

**1. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A FRIEND?**

A. True Friendship is characterized by **SELFLESSNESS**.

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

B. True Friendship willingly **SACRIFICES** personal needs for the other.

John 15:13 “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.”

C. True Friendship treats the other person as an **EQUAL**.

John 15:15 “No longer do I call you servants; for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends...”

D. A True Friend is someone who **SHARPENS** you.

Proverbs 27:17 “Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”

1. We **BECOME** like those we spend our time with.

Proverbs 22:24-25 “Keep away from angry, short-tempered people, or you will learn to be like them and ensnare your heart.”

E. A True Friend is someone who is **HONEST** with you.

Proverbs 27:5-6 “Better is open rebuke than love that is concealed. Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.”

1. We have to earn the right to **WOUND**.

Proverbs 24:26 “An honest answer is the sign of a true friendship.”

F. A True Friend is **LOYAL**.

Proverbs 18:24 “Some friendships don’t last, but some friendships are more **LOYAL** than brothers.”

Proverbs 19:22 “**LOYALTY** makes a person attractive.”

Proverbs 17:9 “Love **FORGIVES** mistakes. Nagging about them parts the best of friends.”

2. HOW DO I GET STARTED IN DEVELOPING LASTING RELATIONSHIPS?

A. Decide to **BE** the right kind of person.

B. Decide to **FIND** the right kind of person.

Proverbs 27:19 “A mirror reflects a man’s face. But what he is **REALLY** like is shown by the friends he chooses.”

1. Don't just pick someone who picks you. Find the kind of person who will spur you on toward God and go after that person.

C. Take the **INITIATIVE**.

Proverbs 18:24 *"A person who has friends must show himself friendly."*

Luke 6:38 *"Give and it will be given to you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over; they will pour into your lap. For whatever measure you give, it will be given back to you."*

"You can make more friends in two months by becoming really interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you." (Dale Carnegie)

D. Be yourself.

E. Be **PATIENT**.

F. Be reasonable.

G. Trust **GOD** to help you.

Philippians 4:19 *"And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."*

God answers prayer and He will send you a friend.

3. CONCLUSION

Romans 5:11 *"Now we can rejoice in our wonderful relationship with God all because of what our Lord Jesus Christ has done in dying for our sins -- making us friends with God!"*

growing deeper with your
friendlist



**Letting Go of
Your Past**
Selected Scriptures

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