

What We Think about Friendship

*A [woman] who has friends must find [herself] friendly,
but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. ~Proverbs 18:24a*

Scripture Reading: John 15:9-15

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Introduction: What comes to your mind when you think of friendship? God wants us all to have thriving, health-giving relationships.

A Personal Friendship Story

Loneliness has reached epic proportions.

God is a relational God, and we were made in the image of God. We were created for relationships and friendships.

The Lord gives us friendships to support us in what we face throughout life.

We may not choose what we go through in life, but we can choose our friends who walk with us. ~Psalm 1:1-2

Good friends are a gift from God.

- Good friends are very important; they encourage us and make us better. ~Proverbs 24b
- Bad friends can drag us down. ~1 Corinthians 15:33
- A friend loves at all times. ~Proverbs 17:17a

Another Personal Friendship Story

Lasting friendships must be based on Jesus Christ's love for us. ~John 15:12

The Lord Jesus is our greatest Friend and gives us the best example of how to be a good friend. ~1 John 4:19

1. He is a comfort to the burdened. ~Matthew 11:28-30
2. The Lord Jesus is a Friend to all and not a respecter of persons. ~John 6:37
3. He humbled Himself as a servant to His friends. ~John 13:1-15
4. The Lord Jesus is an ultimate example of a loving Friend. He gave His life for us.

How are your friendships? Are you feeling lonely or hurt by them?

Friendships are like marriages—they take work.

1. Familiarity can breed contempt.
2. Some friendships go through seasons.
3. Everyone's needs are different.
4. Friendships require forgiveness.

Advice to Young Women

1. The Golden Rule: ~Luke 16:31
2. Choose friends carefully.
3. Choose wise friends. ~Proverbs 13:20
4. Be a good friend. ~Romans 12:10
5. A faithful friend is the medicine of life, physically, mentally, emotionally. ~Ecc. 6:16
6. Friends uplift each other. ~Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 & 12
7. A loyal friend is of great value.
8. Even though we have different backgrounds, Christ binds us together.

Friends in the Bible

1. Mary and Martha: Sisters can be friends.
2. The Women at the Cross: Different backgrounds but still bonded in Christ.
3. Jonathan and David: They had an unlikely friendship.

Friends come and go throughout your life.

God's Love for Us

1. God loves unconditionally whether the person accepts His love or not.
2. God loves whether the person deserves love or not.
3. God loves even if the person is thankful or not.
4. God's love need not be returned.

The Beautiful Hymn of Love: 1 Corinthians 13

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus": No matter what we think about friendship, the love of Christ is the glue that sticks us together. ~Proverbs 18:24