

The Blessing Of Friendship

*"Most men will proclaim each his own goodness, but **who can find a faithful man?**" Proverbs 20:6*

I. Introduction

"A true friend is the one who walks in when the whole world has walked out."

II. How Should we Choose Our Friends or Our Friendships?

The Bible tells us that we should choose our friends _____

*"A Godly person is cautious in friendships, because the ways of the **wicked lead them astray.**"*
Proverbs 12:26

Examples:

- o Friendship with an angry person---*"Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered, or **you may learn his ways** and get yourself ensnared."*
Proverbs 22:24-25
- o Friendship with a person of bad character---*"Do not be misled or deceived about this: "**Bad company corrupts good character.**"* I Corinthians 15:33
- o Friendship with a "fair weather" person---*"**Wealth brings many friends**, but a poor man's friend deserts him." Proverbs 19:4*
- o Friendship with a foolish person---*"**Whoever walks with wise people will be wise**, but whoever associates with fools will suffer harm and be destroyed." Proverbs 13:20*

III. The Six Qualities of Good Friend

1. A good friend is concerned about your _____.

*"When Job's three friends...heard about all the troubles that had come upon him, they determined...to go and **sympathize with him and comfort him.**"* Job 2:11

2. A good friend is one who _____.

*"**Help carry each other's burdens**, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2*

*"**Two are better than one**, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!" Ecclesiastes 4:9-10*

3. A good friend _____.

*"Better is open rebuke than hidden love. **Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.**" Proverbs 27:5-6*

*"Just as iron sharpens iron, so **one person's life sharpens another.**" Proverbs 27:17*

4. A good friend will never _____.

*"Greater love has no one than this, than **to lay down one's life for his friends.**" John 15:13 (NKJV)*

*"For I the Lord **do not change.**" Malachi 3:6*

*"Jesus Christ is the same **yesterday and today and forever.**" Hebrews 13:8*

5. A good friend always provides you with fresh _____.

*"Therefore encourage one another and **build each other up.**" I Thessalonians 5:11*

*"Oil and perfume make the heart glad, so **a man's counsel is sweet to his friend.**" Proverbs 27:9*

6. A good friend points them to the greatest friend of all time-----_____!

*"A person of many companions may come to ruin, but **there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.**" Proverbs 18:24*

*"**The LORD is close to the brokenhearted** and saves those who are crushed in spirit." Psalm 34:18*

*"God is the one who invited you into this **wonderful friendship with His Son** Jesus Christ." I Cor.1:9*

*"And since, when we were his enemies, we were brought back to God by the death of his Son, what blessings He must have for us now that **we are His friends** and He is living within us!" Romans 5:10*

"Friendship consists in forgetting what one gives and remembering what one receives."

---Alexander Dumas

"A friend is someone who knows all about you and still loves you." ---Elbert Hubbard

"My best friend is the one who brings out the best in me."---Henry Ford

"The glory of friendship is not the outstretched hand, not the kindly smile, nor the joy of companionship; it is the spiritual inspiration that comes to one when you discover that someone else believes in you and is willing to trust you with a friendship." ---Ralph Waldo Emerson

ANSWER KEY:

II. How Should we Choose Our Friends or Our Friendships?

CAREFULLY

III. The Six Qualities of Good Friend

1. WELL-BEING

2. CARRIES BURDENS WITH YOU

3. TELLS YOU WHAT YOU NEED TO HEAR

4. BETRAY YOU

5. HOPE AND OPTIMISM

6. JESUS CHRIST