

Proverbs on Friendship

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

A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. (18:24)

Whoever sings songs to a heavy heart is like one who takes off a garment on a cold day, and like vinegar on soda. (25:20)

Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy. (27:5-6)

Oil and perfume make the heart glad, and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel. Do not forsake your friend and your father's friend, and do not go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity. (27:9-10)

Whoever blesses his neighbour with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, will be counted as cursing. (27:14)

Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another. (27:17)

A man who flatters his neighbour spreads a net for his feet. (29:5)

Friendship

Friendship is valuable

- God does friendship¹
- God makes/remakes us for friendship²

With Him

With others

- We are all interdependent

Friendship takes work³

- Time
- Tact
- Truth

Friendship needs the gospel⁴

- Forgiveness
- Example
- Power to change



Reflection / discussion questions

How valuable do you think friendship is? What concrete step do you think you should take to be a better friend this week?

¹ John 5:22-23,

² Gen 1:27, Gen 3:8-9, Ex 33:11, 24:9, Luke 7:34, John 15:15, 17:3, Mark 12:25

³ Prov 17:17, 18:2, 24, 25:20, 27:5-17, 29:5

⁴ John 15:13, Luke 7:34, 1 Jn 3:16-18, Rom 6:4