

Divine Truths for Daily Living

BUILDING LASTING FRIENDSHIPS

Use your heads as you live and work among outsiders. Don't miss a trick. Make the most of every opportunity. Be gracious in your speech. The goal is to bring out the best in others in a conversation, not put them down nor cut them out. Col 4:5-6

I. THE VALUE OF A GOOD FRIEND.

A. A FRIEND IS SOMEONE WHO CAN BE A SOURCE OF COMFORT...

1. In good times and in bad times - **Pr 17:17**
2. In some cases, even better than that provided by a brother - **Pr 18:24b**

B. A FRIEND IS SOMEONE WHO CAN BE A SOURCE OF GOOD COUNSEL...

1. Counsel can that "delight the heart" - **Pr 27:9**
2. The value of counsel in general is seen in **Pr 11:14**

II. ADVICE ON SELECTING FRIENDS

A. PEOPLE YOU DO NOT WANT AS FRIENDS...

1. Gossips - **Pr 20:19**
2. Short-tempered - **Pr 22:24-25**
3. Those given to drinking and gluttony - **Pr 23:20-21**
4. Those given to change - **Pr 24:21-22**
5. Liars, those untrustworthy, and those inconsiderate - **Pr 25:18-20**
6. Those given to violence - **Pr 1:10-19**

B. THE SORT OF FRIENDS YOU WANT...

1. Those who display wisdom themselves - **Pr 13:20**
2. For their teaching (counsel) will help lead you in the right way - **Pr 13:14**

III. MAINTAINING GOOD FRIENDSHIPS

A. THINGS TO AVOID, WHICH CAN DISRUPT A GOOD FRIENDSHIP...

1. Don't repeat everything you hear - **Pr 17:9**
2. Avoid senseless arguments - **Pr 17:14**
3. Don't overstay your welcome - **Pr 25:17**
4. Don't meddle in affairs not your own - **Pr 26:17**
5. Don't play bad jokes - **Pr 26:18-19**
6. Don't be a "talebearer" - **Pr 26:20**
7. Don't be contentious - **Pr 26:21**
8. Don't engage in insincere flattery - **Pr 27:14**

B. SOLVING PROBLEMS WITH OUR FRIENDS...

1. Make sure that you are at peace with the Lord - cf. **Pr 16:7**
2. Be slow to anger - **Pr 15:18**; cf. **Ja 1:19-20**
3. Be slow to respond - **Pr 18:13**
4. Avoid quarrelling - **Pr 20:3**
5. Speak gently - **Pr 15:1**
6. Speak briefly - **Pr 10:19**
7. Be quick to show love - **Pr 10:12**
8. But if necessary, rebuke rather than flatter - **Pr 28:23**

Conclusion

OUR BEST FRIEND?

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

ARE WE HIS?

"You are My friends if you do whatever I command You."
(John 15:14)