"TRUE FRIENDSHIP"

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1. True Friendship is a Means of Grace

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

2. True Friendship Favors the Wise

Prov. 22:24 Make no friendship with a man given to anger,

nor go with a wrathful man,

25 lest you learn his ways

and entangle yourself in a snare.

Prov. 13:20 Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise,

but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

3. True Friendship is Founded Upon Faithfulness

Prov. 17:17 A friend loves at all times,

and a brother is born for adversity.

Prov. 27:10 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.

Better is a neighbor who is near than a brother who is far away.

Prov. 17:9 Whoever covers an offense seeks love,

but he who repeats a matter separates close friends.

4. True Friendship Leads us to the Truth

Prov. 27:17 Iron sharpens iron,

and one man sharpens another.

Prov. 27:6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend;

profuse are the kisses of an enemy.

Prov. 29:5 A man who flatters his neighbor

spreads a net for his feet.

Prov. 28:23 Whoever rebukes a man will afterward find more favor

than he who flatters with his tongue.

5. True Friendship Extends Even to our Enemies

Prov. 24:17 Do not rejoice when your enemy falls,

and let not your heart be glad when he stumbles,

18 lest the Lord see it and be displeased,

and turn away his anger from him.

Prov. 25:21 If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat,

and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink,

for you will heap burning coals on his head,

and the Lord will reward you.

Prov. 16:7 When a man's ways please the Lord,

he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

Questions:

- Do you value friendship? Do you have a friend who is "closer than a brother"?
- 2. Can you be friends with both Christians and non-Christians? Why should our closest friends be followers of Jesus Christ?
- 3. Why is loyalty such an important aspect of friendship? What does it look like to be faithful in friendship?
- 4. What does it mean to "speak the truth in love"? Can we speak truth without love? Can we love without truth?
- 5. Why does Jesus call us to love our enemies? How does befriending an enemy display the Gospel of Jesus Christ?