

# Friends

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## INTRODUCTION:

### A. The Bible speaks of friends.

1. First used in Genesis 38:12 and last used in James 4:4
2. Abraham is called “the friend of God” in James 2:23
3. David and Saul’s eldest son, Jonathan, were the best of friends. 1 Samuel
4. **Proverbs 18:24** – “A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.
5. **Proverbs 17:17** – “A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.”
6. **Proverbs 27:10** – “Do not forsake your own friend or your father's friend, Nor go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity; Better is a neighbor nearby than a brother far away.”

### B. Types of friends.

#### 1. “Fair-weather friends”

- a. They will be there when the going is easy, but disappear when tough times come.
- b. They will be there when they want something from you, but are hard to find when you need their help.

#### 2. False Friends

- a. They will tell you what they want you to hear rather than what you may need to hear.
- b. They will be there when you have something they want from you.
- c. They will not prove reliable . . . dependable.
- d. They will manipulate you.
- e. They will not be honest with you . . . nor with themselves.

#### 3. True Friends

- a. True friends will tell you the truth . . . even if it hurts.
- b. True friends are interested in your welfare above their own.
- c. True friends are reliable . . . dependable.
- d. True friends will be there through thick or thin . . . both good times and bad times.
- e. True friends will help you in times of adversity.
- f. True friends will rejoice with you and weep with you as well.
- g. True friends will not run away then difficult times come.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF A TRUE FRIEND

1. **They will be there.**
2. **They will be honest with you.** Sometimes the truth may be difficult and hurt.
3. **They will be Christ-like.** They will look after what is best for you just as Christ looks after what is best for us.

**CONCLUSION:**

A. **Proverbs 18:24** – “A man who has friends must himself be friendly , But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

1. Have those types of friends . . . Be that kind of friend.
3. Like Abraham . . . Be God’s friend . . . He always wants to be yours.