Friends

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.