FRIENDSHIPS

What is friendship? *A mutual commitment between believers to companionship, to love, and to spiritual growth.*

1. Why do your children need friends?

a. Encouragement
Prov. 12:25 - "Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad."
b. Enrichment
Prov. 27:17 - "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."
c. Companionship
Prov. 18:24 - "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother."

2. Who is not really your child's friend?

A false friend is one who:
a. Is not sincere (27:6)
b. Is only interested in what he can get from your child (14:20; 19:4, 6-7)
c. Is hot-tempered and easily angered (22:24)
d. Is always getting your child into trouble (13:20; 16:17-19)
e. Is always looking for trouble (1:10-19; 4:14-19)
   1) They lead your child astray (1:10)
   2) They band for evil (1:11-14)
   3) They steal for sport (1:13, 19)
   4) They reap what they sow (1:17-18)
   5) They love mischief (4:16-17)
   6) They stumble in darkness (4:18-19)

***Types of "Friendships":**

1) Spiritual Friendships (develops relationships for mutual edification - a church)

2) Social Friendships (develops relationships for emotional needs - a night club, bar)

3) Superficial Friendships (develops relationships for business reasons - a business deal, bank/store)

4) Selfish Friendships (develops relationships for lustful gratification - a sexual/money manipulation)

5) Sinister Friendships (develops relationships for sinful exploits - a street gang)

3. Who is a true spiritual friend?

A true friend is one who:

a. Sticks to his friend faithfully (18:24; cp. Jn. 15:13-15)
(The principle of loyalty)

b. Edifies his friend verbally (27:5-6, 9, 17; 28:23)
(The principle of honesty)

1) Honest rebuke (27:5-6; cp. 28:23)
   a) Is verbal (v. 5)
   b) Is reliable (v. 6a)
   c) Is painful (v. 6b)
   d) Is helpful (v. 6c)

2) Honest advice (27:9)

3) Honest encouragement (27:17)

c. Loves his friend continually (17:17)
(The principle of fidelity)
1) A friend loves through "thick and thin"
2) A friend loves you the way you are

d. Forgives his friend cheerfully (17:9; cp. 10:12)
(The principle of mercy)

e. Trusts his friend confidently (10:12; 11:13)
(The principle of confidentiality)

f. Treats his friend respectfully (27:14)
(The principle of dignity)

4. How do you teach your children to gain friends?

a. Be friendly
Prov. 18:24 - "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother."
b. Be sincere
Prov. 22:11 - "He that loveth pureness of heart, for the grace of his lips the king shall be his friend."
c. Be graceful with your tongue (22:11)
d. Be faithful to your friends
Prov. 27:10 - "Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not; neither go into thy brother's house in the day of thy calamity: for better is a neighbour that is near than a brother far off."

*Basically, be what you should be, and you will meet and become friends with those who are like you.

5. Who Should be Close Friends With Your Children?

a. Someone who is <u>saved</u> (II Cor. 6:14-17)

b. Someone who evidences Godly wisdom

Prov. 13:20 - "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed."

c. Someone who is not <u>worldly</u>

James 4:4 - "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

d. Someone who will <u>build your kids up</u>, not tear them down

Prov. 27:17 - "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."

Basically, someone who knows, loves, and obeys Jesus Christ.

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a. _____ to his friend _____ (18:24; cp. Jn. 15:13-15)
(The principle of <u>loyalty</u>)

b. _____ his friend _____ (27:5-6, 9, 17; 28:23)
(The principle of <u>honesty</u>)



1) Honest _____ (27:5-6; cp. 28:23)
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2) Honest _____ (27:9)

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c. _____ his friend _____ (17:17)
(The principle of <u>fidelity</u>)
1) A friend loves <u>through "thick and thin</u>"
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(The principle of <u>dignity</u>)

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