**Series: Psalms and Proverbs**

**Title: Friends, How Many Of Us Have Them?**

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**Pastor/Teacher: Dr. James H. Mason, III**

“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.” **(Proverbs 17:17 AMP)**

https://bible.com/bible/1588/pro.17.17.AMP

1. **The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Friendship**

“A friend loves at all times,”

1. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Friends**
2. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Friends**

Jesus said to Judas, “Friend, do what you came for.” Then they came and seized Jesus and arrested Him.

**Matthew 26:50 (AMP)**

1. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Friends**

**“The man of too many friends** [**chosen indiscriminately]** will be broken in pieces and come to ruin, **But there is a [true, loving] friend who [is reliable and] sticks closer than a brother.” (Proverbs 18:24 AMP)**

 <https://bible.com/bible/1588/pro.18.24.AMP>

 **Jesus’s example of friendships**

“Now at this time Jesus went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God. When day came, He called His disciples and selected twelve of them, whom He also named apostles (special messengers, personally chosen representatives): **Simon, whom He also named Peter, and his brother Andrew; and [the brothers] James and John; and Philip, and Bartholomew [also called Nathanael]; and Matthew (Levi, the tax collector) and Thomas; and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot; Judas [also called Thaddaeus] the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor [to the Lord].” (Luke 6:12-16 AMP)**

 <https://bible.com/bible/1588/luk.6.12-16.AMP>

“Now about eight days after these teachings, He took along **Peter and John and James** and went up on the mountain to pray.” **(Luke 9:28 AMP)**

 <https://bible.com/bible/1588/luk.9.28.AMP>

**“One of His disciples, whom Jesus loved (esteemed), was leaning against Jesus’ chest.” (John 13:23 AMP)**

 <https://bible.com/bible/1588/jhn.13.23.AMP>

“So Jesus, seeing His mother, and the disciple whom He loved (esteemed) standing near, said to His mother, “[Dear] woman, look, [here is] your son!” **Then He said to the disciple (John), “Look! [here is] your mother [protect and provide for her]!” From that hour the disciple took her into his own home.” (John 19:26-27 AMP)**

 <https://bible.com/bible/1588/jhn.19.26-27.AMP>

1. **The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Friendships**
2. **True Friendship Is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

“A friend loves at all times”

1. **True Friendship Involves \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

“A friend loves at all times”

“The man of too many friends [chosen indiscriminately] will be broken in pieces and come to ruin, But there is **a [true, loving] friend who [is reliable and] sticks closer than a brother.” (Proverbs 18:24 AMP)**

<https://bible.com/bible/1588/pro.18.24.AMP>

“**Never abandon a friend— either yours or your father’s.** When disaster strikes, you won’t have to ask your brother for assistance. It’s better to go to a neighbor than to a brother who lives far away.” **(Proverbs 27:10 NLT)**

<https://bible.com/bible/116/pro.27.10.NLT>

“Don’t walk in front of me

I may not follow:

Don’t walk behind me-

I may not lead.

Walk beside me-

And just be my friend.”

--Albert Camus

1. **True Friendship Is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

“The man of too many friends [chosen indiscriminately] will be broken in pieces and come to ruin, But **there is a [true, loving] friend who [is reliable and] sticks closer than a brother.” (Proverbs 18:24 AMP)**

<https://bible.com/bible/1588/pro.18.24.AMP>

**The Indians definition of friendship means “one who carries my sorrows on his back.”**

“But [in fact] He has borne our griefs, And **He has carried our sorrows and pains;** Yet we [ignorantly] assumed that He was stricken, Struck down by God and degraded and humiliated [by Him].” **(Isaiah 53:4 AMP)**

<https://bible.com/bible/1588/isa.53.4.AMP>

**Jesus was known as a friend of sinners**

“No one has greater love [nor stronger commitment] than to lay down his own life for his friends.” **(John 15:13 AMP)**

<https://bible.com/bible/1588/jhn.15.13.AMP>

1. **True Friendship is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

“As iron sharpens iron, So **one man sharpens [and influences] another [through discussion].” (Proverbs 27:17 AMP)**

<https://bible.com/bible/1588/pro.27.17.AMP>

“**Faithful are the wounds of a friend [who corrects out of love and concern],** But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful [because they serve his hidden agenda].” **(Proverbs 27:6 AMP)**

<https://bible.com/bible/1588/pro.27.6.AMP>

1. **The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Steps That Should Be Taken When It Comes to Friendships**

A. Choose Friends \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ And \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

B. Guard Good Friendships \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

C. Sow Into Friendships \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. End Bad Friendships \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ And \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**“Many will say they are loyal friends, but who can find one who is truly reliable?” (Proverbs 20:6 NLT)**

<https://bible.com/bible/116/pro.20.6.NLT>

What a friend we have in Jesus

All our sins and griefs to bear

What a privilege to carry

Everything to God in prayer

Oh, what peace we often forfeit

Oh, what needless pain we bear

All because we do not carry

Everything to God in prayer

Have we trials and temptations?

Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged

Take it to the Lord in prayer

Can we find a friend so faithful

Who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our every weakness

Take it to the Lord in prayer

Source: Musixmatch

Songwriters: Charles C. Converse / Joyce Eilers Bacak / Joseph M. Scrivener

**Answer Key:**

1. **The Definition of Friendship**
2. **Fair-weather Friends**
3. **Fake Friends**
4. **Faithful Friends**
5. **The Descriptions of Friendships**
6. **True Friendship Is Unselfish**
7. **True Friendship Involves Dedication**
8. **True Friendship Is Special**
9. **True Friendship Is Sharpening**
10. **The Detailed Steps That Should Be Taken When It Comes to Friendships**

A**. Choose Friends Carefully And Prayerfully**

**B. Guard Good Friendships Respectfully**

**C. Sow Into Friendships Generously**

1. **End Bad Friendships Kindly And Abruptly**