

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: Proverbs 17:17 “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity”

Quote: “True friends face in the same direction, toward common projects, interests, goals. C.S. Lewis.

When you look up acquaintance and friend the following related words are listed: “attachment, closeness, intimacy, rapport, kinship, oneness, togetherness, unity, companionship, comrade, confidant.”

Proverbs 18:24 offers valuable insights on friendship. NKJV: “A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” NASV “A man of too many friends comes to ruin, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” ESV: “A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” Commentators tell us that the gist of this verse warns against making friends too easily and without discernment because that can lead to ruin. On the other hand, a friend chosen prayerfully and carefully can bring better blessings and support than one’s own blood relative. Why? You don’t choose blood relatives and the character, or lack thereof, that comes with them, but you do choose friends and the character, or lack thereof, that comes with them!

The friendship of Jonathan and David is a wonderful example of selfless love and loyalty. After David killed Goliath, Jonathan, the king’s son, listened carefully as the shepherd’s son talked with Saul. “Now when *David* had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.” Jonathan so respected the character of David that his heart was “tied together” with David’s heart. In many ways, they were “two of a kind” in spite of being from very different backgrounds. Both of these young men displayed a desire for God’s will above their own welfare. When David fled from Saul, Jonathan “went to David in the woods and *strengthened his hand in God*. And he said to him, ‘Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next

to you. Even my father Saul knows that.’ So the two of them made a covenant before the LORD....”² Jonathan realized that God had chosen David to replace Saul as king, and he embraced God’s will.

When Jonathan was killed, David said, “I am distressed for you, *my brother Jonathan*; you have been very pleasant to me; your love to me was wonderful, surpassing the love of women.”³ It was an unselfish, sacrificial love of choice devoid of lust for power, position and pleasure. Contrast the consecrated friendship of David and Jonathan with the corrupt friendship of men like Amnon and Jonadab to see the difference God-honoring friends can make.⁴ Years later, David’s son, Solomon, wrote, “Ointment and perfume delight the heart, and the sweetness of a man’s friend gives delight by hearty counsel. 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*.”⁵ In Proverbs, he offers several characteristics of godly friends. Keep in mind that the only friend that exhibited all of these traits perfectly was the Lord Jesus Christ, yet they can serve as a general guide for us in choosing *and in being* godly friends.

God’s A Honor Roll, Acquaintances

Honor their parents 1:8-9; 20:20; Ex.20:12
Are not manipulative; don’t lead you astray. 1:10,15
Have God’s blessing. 3:32-35
Are humble. 27:2
Build up and sharpen each other. 12:26; 27:17
Are wise. 13:20; 14:7-9
Do not slander or gossip. 11:13; 16:28; 17:9; 20:19
Use commendable speech. 10:20; 15:4; 25:15; 31:26
Are loyal and dependable. 17:17; 19:4-7; 20:6
Are of noteworthy character. 11:3; 22:11
Exhibit self-control. 22:24-25
Speak the truth in love. 12:18-19; 27:5-6, 9; 28:23
May God give us wisdom to choose our friends carefully and the grace *to be the type of friend that is a godly influence upon others*.

1 | Sam.18:1 2 | Sam.23:16-18 3 | Sam.1:26 4 | 2 Sam.13 5 | Prov.27:9-10