

Friendship

I. Definition

one attached to another by [affection](#) or esteem

: one that is not hostile

: one that [favors](#) or promotes something (as a charity)

- A. Be careful not to overanalyze what someone means by friendship
 - 1. Friendship is a very long scale (the person in line vs someone you grew up with)
 - 2. It's ok to determine what you want to be as a friend and who you consider a friend, but don't assume that is their definition
- B. Mutual?
 - 1. Friendship can't be forced
 - a) *You can say "a real friend would have..."*
 - b) *....but they don't have to meet that expectation*
 - 2. Be careful with uneven friendships
 - a) *Don't expect that your friend will want to be as close as you do*
 - b) *You don't owe your friend depth, but it might be worth the risk*
 - c) *Resentment can be an indicator of unhealthy motivation*
 - d) *Some friendships will only go so far, and that's ok*

II. How to be a friend

- A. What do you want in a friend?
 - 1. Like to hang out together
 - a) *Take a little time and see if you have any common interests*
 - b) *Jesus hung out with tax collectors and sinners*
 - 2. Trust and safety
 - a) *They know you care about them and want the best for them*
 - b) *They know they can tell you things that you won't tell anyone else*
 - c) *They know you won't bail if they make a mistake, but may like that you call them out on it.*

B. Words from the Book

Proverbs 27:6 (NKJV) — 6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

Proverbs 12:26 (NKJV) — 26 The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray.

Proverbs 14:20 (NKJV) — 20 The poor man is hated even by his own neighbor, But the rich has many friends.

Proverbs 16:28 (NKJV) — 28 A perverse man sows strife, And a whisperer separates the best of friends.

Proverbs 17:17 (NKJV) — 17 A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.

Proverbs 18:24 (NKJV) — 24 A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Proverbs 22:11 (NKJV) — 11 He who loves purity of heart And has grace on his lips, The king will be his friend.

Luke 21:16 (NKJV) — 16 You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death.

John 15:13–15 (NKJV) — 13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. **14** You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. **15** No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

James 2:23 (NKJV) — 23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God.

III. You don't have to be everyone's friend

A. Human relationships

1. You just don't click and that's ok
2. They have annoying habits you can't get past
 - a) *If you get to be you they get to be them as long as they respect boundaries*
 - b) *Separate yourself if you need to, or reach out if you need to. Sometimes getting to know someone takes the edge off.*
3. They're toxic
 - a) *Some people just want to see the world burn or are obsessed with drama*
 - b) *Don't join people in their selfishness, it's destructive (James 4:1-4)*
 - c) *We should be friendly and reach out, but go into it with your eyes open. (John 6:67-71)*

B. God with man

1. He wants our friendship, that's why He came/sent Jesus (John 3:16)
2. The friend request is out there, but you have to accept it
3. When you are God's friend He will point out what you've done wrong and what you can do better.
4. He'll love you and be with you wherever you are at.