

Taking Care Of My Friendships

Under New Management #10-11

Tim Gill – April 6, 2014

You are better off to have a friend than to be all alone, because then you will get more enjoyment out of what you earn. ¹⁰ If you fall, your friend can help you up. But if you fall without having a friend nearby, you are really in trouble. ¹¹ If you sleep alone, you won't have anyone to keep you warm on a cold night. ¹² Someone might be able to beat up one of you, but not both of you. As the saying goes, "A rope made from three strands of cord is hard to break."

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (CEV)

4 reasons why God gives me friendships:

- Friendships from God **supply me with companionship.**
- Friendships from God **help me mature.**
- Friendships from God **provide my life with accountability.**
- Friendships from God **make me stronger.**

I will be a good friend...

1. When I love my friends enough to level with them.

An honest answer is the sign of a true friendship. Proverbs 24:26 (GN)

So Jonathan called David and told him the whole conversation. He brought him to Saul, and David was with Saul as before.

1 Samuel 19:7 (NIV)

As for you, show kindness to your servant, for you have brought him into a covenant with you before the LORD. If I am guilty, then kill me yourself! Why hand me over to your father?" ⁹ "Never!" Jonathan said. "If I had the least inkling that my father was determined to harm you, wouldn't I tell you?"

1 Samuel 20:8-10 (NIV)

Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

Proverbs 27:6 (NIV)

2. When I give my friends the freedom to be themselves.

*... David and Jonathan became best friends. Jonathan thought as much of David as he did of himself. **1 Samuel 18:1 (CEV)***

After the boy had gone, David got up from the south side of the stone and bowed down before Jonathan three times, with his face to the ground. Then they kissed each other and wept together—but David wept the most. ⁴² Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the LORD..."

1 Samuel 20:41-42a (NIV)

3. When I am a source of encouragement to my friends.

Jonathan made an agreement with David, because he loved David as much as himself. ⁴ He took off his coat and gave it to David, along with his armor, including his sword, bow, and belt.

1 Samuel 18:3-4 (NIV)

And Jonathan had David reaffirm his oath out of love for him...

1 Samuel 20:17 (NIV)

*Jonathan said to David, Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the Lord... **1 Samuel 20:42a (NIV)***

*"Don't be afraid," he said. "My father Saul will not lay a hand on you. You will be king over Israel..." **1 Samuel 23:17 (NIV)***

4. When I show up when my friend is down.

Jonathan went to David at Horesh & helped him find strength in God.

1 Samuel 23:16 (NIV)

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Proverbs 17:17 (NIV)

5. When I am God's friend.

*Friendship with God is reserved for those who reverence him. With them alone he shares the secrets of his promises. **Psalms 25:14 (LB)***

Even now there is someone in heaven who will speak for me. There is someone above who will testify for me. ²⁰ My friend speaks for me, while my eyes pour out tears to God. ²¹ He speaks to God for me, like someone presenting an argument for a friend.

Job 16:19-21 (ERV)