

Loneliness is the worlds #1 killer. Our world's population is exploding and yet millions of people are feeling isolated and lonely - as if they were the only persons left on the earth. As a result we often make poor choices and fall into the pitfall of "Bad Friendships."

"A mirror reflects a man's face, but what he is really like is shown by the kind of friends he chooses." Proverbs 27:19 (LB)

Six Marks Of A Real Friend

1. I Must Be _____

"A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." Proverbs 18:24 (NIV)

"Some friends do not last, but some friends are more loyal than brothers." Proverbs 18:24 (LB)

Who Am I Committed To And Who Knows I Am Committed To Them?

2. I Must Be _____

"What a man desires is unfailing love." Proverbs 19:22 (NIV)

"Kindness is attractive to a man." Proverbs 19:22 (LB)

1 Chronicles 11:10-15

"Love forgets mistakes. Nagging about them parts the best of friends." Proverbs 17:9 (LB)

Real Friends Don't _____
They _____

3. I Must Be _____

"A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret." Proverbs 11:13 (NIV)

"A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid a man who talks too much." Proverbs 20:19 (NIV)

4. I Must Be _____

"Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Wounds from a friend can be trusted." Proverbs 27:5-6 (NIV)

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

Three Rules For Being Candid

#1: _____ in public _____ in private

#2: Be _____ when they're up _____ when they're down

#3: Never _____ a friend until you prove you're open to _____ from them

5. I Must Be _____

1 Thessalonians 5:11

*"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."
Proverbs 27:17 (NIV)*

Friends _____ Friends

"He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm." Proverbs 13:20 (NIV)

*"Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."
1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV)*

*"I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions (try to split friendships) and put obstacles in your way... Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people."
Romans 16:17-18 (NIV)*

6. I Must Be _____

*"A friend loves at ALL times, and a brother is born for adversity."
Proverbs 17:17 (NIV)*

"Now we can rejoice in our wonderful relationship with God... all because of what Jesus Christ has done in dying for our sins... making us friends with God." Romans 5:11 (LB)

Personal Study - Growth Homework

GETTING STARTED

What is one truth you really needed to hear? Using the word "Friend" come up with a character quality for each letter (feel free to write down more than one word)

**F
R
I
E
N
D**

TAKING A CLOSER LOOK

This weekend we looked at the "Six Marks Of A Friend" (which also apply to a marriage) but how will others know if these qualities are true of our friendship and/or relationship with them? In other words, what actions demonstrate each of these are alive and well in a friendship or a marriage relationship? Be specific.

Committed

Considerate

Confidential

Candid

Constructive

Consistent

Proverbs has some specific "Do Not Associate With" passages. What do each of these verses say about who we are NOT to associate with and why do you think these are necessary? What's the danger or potential risk?

Pr. 20:19

Pr. 1:10-19

Pr. 4:14-17

Pr. 22:24-25

Pr. 14:7-9

Pr. 7:25-27

Pr. 13:20

How did and does Jesus demonstrate ALL six marks of a real friend?

How do you think God produces & grows these six qualities in our life?

GOING DEEPER

When does a friendship become unhealthy and become unwise to stay in? What should we do when a friendship becomes unhealthy? What does god say? Why does God's Word seem so harsh in some of these cases? What's the danger - where's the love - why is this love?

Romans 16:17-18

2 Thessalonians 3:14-15

1 Corinthians 5:9-11

2 John 1:7-11

Titus 3:10

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

Deuteronomy 22:9

Ephesians 5:10-11

Which of these six marks of a true friend are alive and strong and which are weak in your friendships/relationships/marriage? Which of the six do you need to grow?

What are the risks involved in becoming a true friend?

What is God saying to you about your friendships through this study?