



SERIES: FRIENDSHIP

Friendship in Proverbs

March 1, 2010

Some of the best wisdom the Bible has to offer is contained in the book of Proverbs. On the issue of friendship, Proverbs has plenty of great insight to give us. The following is a list of some key teachings and how they are helpful to our study of friendship.

Friends Help or Harm

As we looked at last week, the Bible says repeatedly that we are influenced by the company we keep. Speaking specifically of friends, they will either be people who help us or harm us.

- *Proverbs 13:20 Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.*

Friends that Harm

Fake Friends

- *Proverbs 19:4 Wealth brings many new friends, but a poor man is deserted by his friends.*
- *Proverbs 19:6 Many seek the favor of a generous man, and everyone is a friend to a man who gives gifts.*

Sinful Friends

- *Proverbs 16:28 A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends.*
- *Proverbs 17:9 Whoever covers an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends.*
- *Proverbs 22:24-25 Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man, lest you learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare.*

Painful Friends

- *Proverbs 25:19 Trusting in a treacherous man in the time of trouble is like a bad tooth or a foot that slips.*
- *Proverbs 25:20 Whoever sings songs to a heavy heart is like one who takes off a garment on a cold day, and like vinegar on soda.*

Friends that Help

Devoted Friends

- *Proverbs 17:17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.*



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

Sanctifying Friends

- *Proverbs 27:6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy*
- *Proverbs 27:9 Oil and perfume make the heart glad, and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel.*
- *Proverbs 27:17 Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.*

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Think of people you call your friends. Which friends are helpful and which friends are harmful?
2. How has my view of friendship changed in light of the teaching of Proverbs?
3. Am I a helpful or harmful friend to others?