

## Teen Topics

### Friendship (Part 1)

#### **The Issue:**

Everyone loves good friendships. We all appreciate the fun and great memories that come with having friends. No doubt, friendship is a wonderful thing. As we begin our series on friendships, let's take a look at what Scripture says is the purpose behind our friendships and try to gain a greater understanding of the important role friends have in our lives.

#### **What does the Bible say?**

Note what these verses teach concerning the purpose of friendships:

- > **Prov. 27:5-6** – Confronting sin and keeping each other in line.
- > **Prov. 27:9** – Giving advice and helpful counsel when needed.
- > **Prov. 27:17** – Building each other up/improving each other.
- > **Eccl. 4:9-12** – Encouraging and strengthening each other.
- > **Acts 27:3** – Helping meet the needs of one another.

#### **What should I do?**

As we can see, friendships can be highly valuable. We must recognize the need we have for friends, as well as the important role we have in each other's lives. As you reflect over the verses above, keep in mind these helpful truths:

1. It is easier for others to notice areas in our life that need to be **improved** than it is for us to notice ourselves.
2. Keeping each other **accountable** can go a long way toward growing in godliness.
3. An encouraging word or a helping hand may be exactly how God desires you to **uplift** a friend.

It is always good to evaluate your friendships to be sure they are meeting the purposes God has intended for them. Developing good friendships and surrounding yourself with good people is key. We'll look at this more in our next lesson.