

Teen Topics Friendships (Part 3)

The Issue:

We all appreciate a good, loyal friend. We enjoy having a friend come by when we need someone to talk to, a word of encouragement or just a good laugh. However, we must keep in mind that a friendship is a two-way relationship. Let's think about how to be a good friend as we conclude our study.

What does the Bible say?

Notice what advice these verses give about being a good friend to others:

- > I Sam. 20:41-42 – Tell your friends you care about them.
- > Prov. 17:17; 27:10 – Show an unconditional commitment.
- > John 15:12-13 – Lovingly put your friends above yourself.
- > I Cor. 16:17-18 – Be an encourager; uplift your friends.
- > Phil. 1:3-4; Col. 1:3 – Pray for them on a regular basis.

What should I do?

These Scriptural truths will allow you to be the kind of friend God intends for you to be. Putting these into practice may be somewhat difficult at first, especially if you are not used to doing them, but the impact they will make will be well worth it. When thinking about what areas you need to improve, consider the following:

1. Think of specific things you could say or do to show your friends you care about them, and be sure to do them!
2. Friendships require a sacrifice of time, energy, and resources. Focus on giving rather than receiving.
3. Develop a reputation of trust. Avoid doing things that hurt the friendship, and be willing to apologize if you fail.

If we want to enjoy the benefits of a good friendship, we must learn how to be a good friend. Only then will we see what a true friendship is all about!

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