

What does the Bible say about....  
The Qualities of a Friend  
Proverbs 14



- Some think that a good friend is someone that you go out with to lunch once a week. You laugh and joke and tell stories
- As Christians, we are more than just friends that talk about politics or weather
- ***We are helping one another become stronger Christians***



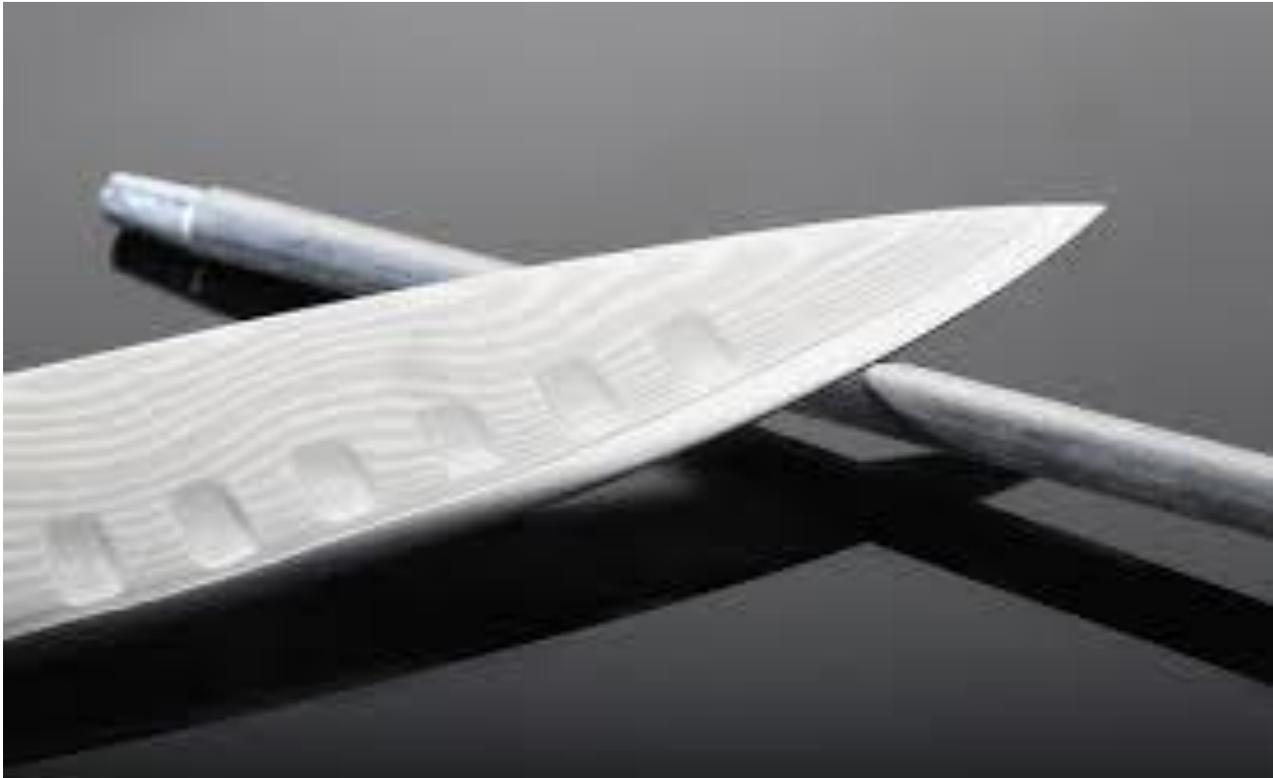
- When looking for a friend or a mentor what qualities are you looking for?
- **Choose wisely**
- Today we will talk about choosing a friend
- You may think, what is so important about choosing friends?

## **CHOOSE YOUR FRIENDS**



These are times where friends change you,  
and you change them “*As iron sharpens  
iron so one man sharpens another*”

Proverbs 27:17



# I. The Upright Friend Vs. 2, 9, 11

*2 Whoever fears the LORD walks uprightly, but those who despise him are devious in their ways.*

*9 Fools mock at making amends for sin, but goodwill is found among the upright.*

*11 The house of the wicked will be destroyed, but the tent of the upright will flourish.*

- To be upright means to have honesty, integrity, and straightness
- You know that he/she is going to tell you the truth
- They are trustworthy and reliable, that is the integrity part



# How do you find out if a person is upright?

- You ask other people that know him/her
- You observe him in how he relates to other people
- You see what kind of personality he/she has



- Vs. 2 the upright person fears the Lord
- This is someone who reveres God
- He understands his relationship with the God of all creation
- Vs. 9 goodwill is found among the upright,
- It means to be favorable and to be received with favor
- The upright person is well liked by others



## **II. The Discerning Friend Vs. 6**

**6** *The mocker seeks wisdom  
and finds none, but  
knowledge comes easily to  
the discerning.*

- To be discerning means to understand, to be perceptive, comprehend, and be insightful. It is part of being wise
- You don't see this until you get to know someone
- They are perceptive in the smallest things that help decide



- Have you ever hired someone? All you have before you are resumes and people put their best on the resume.
- It is the little things, the fidgets, not making eye contact, the pauses. Because if you miss these little things, you can hire the wrong person
- When choosing a friend, you want a friend that is discerning with people



### **III. The Prudent Friend Vs. 8, 15, 18**

*8 The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways, but the folly of fools is deception.*

*15 The simple believe anything, but the prudent give thought to their steps.*

*18 The simple inherit folly, but the prudent are crowned with knowledge.*

- It can mean to be cunning, crafty, shrewd but here it is a positive idea
- Knowing how to act with a cool head when everyone else is going crazy
- It is being able to deal with the difficult people and problems of life
- It is making the wise decision in the midst of chaos or calm



- Vss. 8, 15 says that the prudent gives thought to his steps, ways
- That he gives careful consideration to decisions and actions
- Not doing anything rashly, but when decisions have to be made
- He can do so with confidence that the right one has been made



## **IV. The Wise Friend Fears the Lord Vs. 16, 26**

***16** The wise fear the LORD and shun evil, but a fool is hotheaded and reckless.*

***26** Whoever fears the LORD has a secure fortress, and for their children it will be a refuge.*

- Wisdom is over all of these qualities
- In Proverbs, “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”
- It is a holy reverence for the Lord
- When you understand your place in relation to God,
- You are getting wise, you are understanding your place in life
- And then you can get the wisdom of God



## **V. The Patient Friend Vs. 29**

*29 Whoever is patient has great understanding, but one who is quick-tempered displays folly.*

- I put this in last because we all need grace from time to time
- I will take grace from a friend any day
- You will need a friend with great understanding of life, of you
- When you mess up, it's called sin
- You need a friend that will come alongside you and pick up pieces
- They don't excuse your sin, but they do understand



- I am thankful for the many friends that have made me what I am today. I think back to my youth pastor, he showed Christ to me like I had never known.
- You as a friend have a tremendous impact on your friends
- And so your friends will do the same to you
- Choose wisely



He who is slow to anger has great understanding,  
But he who is quick-tempered exalts folly.

不轻易发怒的,大有聪明;性情暴躁的,大显愚妄。

El que es paciente muestra gran discernimiento;el  
que es agresivo muestra mucha insensatez

Asiye mwepesi wa hasira ana fahamu nyingi;Bali  
mwenye roho ya hamaki hutukuza upumbavu.

노하기를 더디 하는 자는 크게 명철하여도 마음이  
조급한 자는 어리석음을 나타내느니라

जो विलम्ब से क्रोध करने वाला है वह बड़ा समझ वाला है, परन्तु  
जो अधीर है, वह मूढ़ता की बढ़ती करता है।

Түсінігі мол ұстамды жанның,Ақымақтығы аян  
ашушаңның.

What does the Bible say about....The Qualities of a Friend Proverbs 14

Some think that a good friend is someone that you go out with to lunch once a week. You laugh and joke and tell stories  
As Christians, we are more than just friends that talk about politics or weather

***We are helping one another become stronger Christians***

We should be able to share the good times and the bad times

***When looking for a friend or a mentor what qualities***

***are you looking for? Choose wisely***

***Today we will talk about choosing a friend***

You may think, what is so important about choosing friends?

Who you associate with makes you into who you are

I think back at all the friendships that I have had over the years

Every one of those friends changed me in one way or another

Many of these friends have been in the church

And in the day to day things of life, we got to know each other

We spent time with each other, worked side by side

Ministered to hurting people, experienced joys and sorrows of life

These are times where friends change you, and you change them

Where you are of the same heart

Where you have a Paul-Barnabas friendship

Or a Paul-Timothy friendship

Where you help one another grow in Christ,

*“As iron sharpens iron so one man sharpens another”* Proverbs 27:17

The kind of friend that isn't afraid to tell you when you are wrong

***Your friends need these qualities***

Telling stories from the past may be safe

But you don't grow, you don't become a better person

**I. The Upright Friend Vs. 2, 9, 11**

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*9 Fools mock at making amends for sin, but goodwill is found among the upright.*

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To be upright means to have honesty, integrity, and straightness

You know that he/she is going to tell you the truth

They are trustworthy and reliable, that is the integrity part

When someone says, so what do you think about Bill?

If they can summarize; he is a good man.

That is a good enough summary for me, because it says it all

This has the same idea as being righteous

How do you find out if a person is upright?

>You ask other people that know him/her

>You observe him in how he relates to other people

>You see what kind of personality he/she has

Vs. 2 the upright person fears the Lord

This is someone who reveres God

He understands his relationship with the God of all creation

Vs. 9 goodwill is found among the upright,

It means to be favorable and to be received with favor

The upright person is well liked by others

Because he does good things for people, he gives out goodwill

Do you want this friendship to go somewhere?

Do you want to go beyond the coffee or tea, joking, and stories?

That friend needs the quality of uprightness

**II. The Discerning Friend Vs. 6**

*6 The mocker seeks wisdom and finds none, but knowledge comes easily to the discerning.*

To be discerning means to understand, to be perceptive, comprehend, and be insightful. It is part of being wise

You don't see this until you get to know someone

As you see him making decisions, wise decisions

They are perceptive in the smallest things that help decide

And many times it deals with judging people's character

Have you ever hired someone? All you have before you are resumes and people put their best on the resume. If they don't, you know they can be eliminated. But then with the resumes that are left, it is what they don't write or how they present the info that tells a lot about them.

And then if they get far enough to interview, how they present themselves.

It is the little things, the fidgets, not making eye contact, the pauses.

Because if you miss these little things, you can hire the wrong person

When choosing a friend, you want a friend that is discerning with people

You will be able to see it in how they run their lives and their family lives

It is the ability to figure out things faster than others

When people don't know what decision to make they appeal to  
What we call the "gut instinct"

In the Bible we call it discernment, and it's good to have a friend that  
has this quality. You can learn it if you are perceptive

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knowledge.*

It can mean to be cunning, crafty, shrewd but here it is a positive idea  
Knowing how to act with a cool head when everyone else is going crazy

It is being able to deal with the difficult people and problems of life

It is making the wise decision in the midst of chaos or calm

If the stock market were going down and everyone else is selling

The prudent person doesn't make an emotional decision

He looks at the information and may see the business is sound

It may be going through a bump in the road, and he buys when everyone  
else is selling and then makes a good profit

That is being shrewd in a good sense, cunning, crafty

I am not saying that you have a friend like this to get rich

But when hard times come, this person can see through the confusion  
so that a panic decision isn't made

Vss. 8,15 says that the prudent gives thought to his steps, ways

That he gives careful consideration to decisions and actions

Not doing anything rashly, but when decisions have to be made

He can do so with confidence that the right one has been made

You want a friend like this in your corner

### **IV. The Wise Friend Fears the Lord Vs. 16, 26**

*16 The wise fear the LORD and shun evil, but a fool is hotheaded and reckless.*

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refuge.*

All of these overlap, they are related to one another

Wisdom is over all of these qualities

In Proverbs, "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom"

It is a holy reverence for the Lord

When you understand your place in relation to God,

You are getting wise, you are understanding your place in life

And then you can get the wisdom of God

This is really the basics, it is, Knowing God 101

But if you don't get it, you can't move on to the next lesson in life

You need a friend that loves the Lord with all his heart

This is the most important relationship in his life

He wants to know God more and you can see that he loves God

It will come out in many different ways, talk, walk, and decisions

All the others are important, but this is #1

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I will take grace from a friend any day

You will need a friend with great understanding of life, of you

When you mess up, it's called sin

You need a friend that will come alongside you and pick up pieces

They don't excuse your sin, but they do understand

We are on a journey to get to know the Lord

And on that journey it is great to have a friend to share the road

To carry the burden when you can't

And to encourage you to keep going when you are weary

I am thankful for the many friends that have made me what I am today

I think back to my youth pastor, he showed Christ to me like I had

never known. He was the 1st friend that had an impact on my life.

I spent time with him and got to know him. Or he challenged me

as a teen, are you reading the Bible and praying?

NO Because of those words, I started to do so.

You as a friend have a tremendous impact on your friends

And so your friends will do the same to you

Choose wisely