

## GOING FURTHER – Resources

### Recommended Books & Websites:

***More than BFFs – When Friendship Goes Too Far*** (by Kelly Needham) Has your relationship with your best friend gone too far? Here are 15 questions to help find your identity and security in Christ.

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/more-than-bffs>

***Strengthen Each Other's Hands in God*** (John Piper) God has ordained that we be related to other believers in such a way that we can help each other fight the fight of faith successfully day in and day out until the end.

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/strengthen-each-others-hands-in-god>

***Can Christian Men and Women Be Friends?*** (Paul Maxwell) Some say absolutely not. Some say it's a must. The Bible presents a third and better way for men and women to love each other in the Church.

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/can-christian-men-and-women-be-friends>



# Friendships



# Thinking About Friendship

Sometimes it's good to evaluate our friendships. What's the purpose of friendship? At a basic level, friends make us feel good. We enjoy the time, the laughs and the connection. Friends help us share the load. With the weight of life, we need the emotional support that others can give. We need people who listen to us. Good friends sharpen us. We learn from them and they can keep us accountable.

## Sayings About Friendship:

- A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out.
- A true friend is the best Possession.
- Friends are God's way of taking care of us.
- Friendship is one mind in two bodies.

## What the Bible Says:

**Ecclesiastes 4:9,10** -Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!

**Proverbs 27:17** -Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.

**Proverbs 12:26** -One who is righteous is a guide to his neighbor, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

**Luke 6:31** -And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

**John 15:12-15** -"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

## Warnings About Friendships:

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

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

**1 Corinthians 15:33** -Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals.

**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.

**James 4:4** -You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself and enemy of God.

## To Glorify God:

For the Christian, friendships should glorify God. Relationships that draw us close to God are good. That doesn't mean we always need to be praying and reading the Bible together, but good friends will build us up in our relationship with God. Relationships that drag us away from our friendship with God should be avoided. Should we have friends that are not Christians? Of course we should! How else can we share the good news of Christ's gift of salvation if we do not know anyone who needs it? But herein lies the key – the purpose of these friendships should ultimately be to introduce them to Christ. "For what profits a man if he gains the whole world yet loses his soul?" (*Matthew 16:26*)

## Questions to think about:

1. Do my friendships glorify God, or are they primarily about meeting my needs?
2. Are my friendships taking me in a healthy direction towards God?
3. What could I do to be a better friend?
4. What purpose may God have for me in my friendships?

Take a moment now to pray about your friendships. Listen to God and ask him to speak to your heart about the friends in your life; about how you could be a better friend. Thank God for the blessing of friends and the joy He brings through those relationships. Worship Him for His friendship with you – the Best Friend Ever!