

Friendship

What is a friend? The dictionary says it's a person whom one likes, knows and trusts. It also says that a friendship is the quality or condition of being a friend, but what really makes a friendship or more importantly, what makes a good friend? Do you stand by your friend during both good and bad times or do you "bail out" at the first sign of trouble or talk about them behind their back? How loyal are you? Does your love for them change based on how you feel or what they might have done? Do you love them wholeheartedly? Do you have the strength to tell them the truth about themselves even though you know that sometimes the truth can hurt? Are you willing to listen when something is wrong and give them sound, Godly advice? These are the most vital components of a good friend and the base to build upon for a healthy friendship. Proverbs talks about friendship in a few places and the first one are Proverbs 16:28 it says that gossip separates close friends. The fastest way to break up a friendship is, not knowing how to remain loyal to that friend. The second one is unconditional love. Proverbs 17:17 says that a friend loves at all times... unconditionally. God loves you no matter what simply because you are his child and the same applies for a friend. You love them for who they are, not because of what they do. Love them in spite of their flaws remembering that you aren't perfect either. The third one is what I would call "wise counsel." There will be times when it is required that you give advice. It is important that you listen to the problem and address it as best you can. Next, speak the truth. Speaking the truth is sometimes the hardest part of a being a friend. When they step out of line you have to be honest and tell them. Be straightforward, but be kind. You want to help them, not start a fight. Consider it "constructive criticism. Last but not least, always remember to keep God first in all of your relationships it will make them stronger than you would have ever imagined. He helps build strong friendships.

