

The Friendship Formula

Biblical References

Why friendship?

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 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! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken. (ESV)

Proverbs 18:1-24 Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment. A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion. When wickedness comes, contempt comes also, and with dishonor comes disgrace. The words of a man's mouth are deep waters; the fountain of wisdom is a bubbling brook. It is not good to be partial to the wicked or to deprive the righteous of justice. ... (ESV)

How do friendships begin?

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

1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. (ESV)

1 John 1:4 We love because God loved us first. (ESV)

1 John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

1 Peter 4:8-10 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: (ESV)

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ... (ESV)

Proverbs 18:24 A man *who has* friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend *who* sticks closer than a brother. (NKJV)

How do I choose friends?

Proverbs 27:19 As in water face reflects face, so the heart of man reflects the man. (ESV)

Proverbs 18:24 There are “friends” who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother. (NLT)

A man of *too many* friends *comes* to ruin,
But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. (NASB)

1 Corinthians 15:33 Do not be deceived: “Bad company corrupts good morals.” (NASB)

Proverbs 22:24-27 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. Be not one of those who give pledges, who put up security for debts. If you have nothing with which to pay, why should your bed be taken from under you? (ESV)

2 Corinthians 6:14 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? (ESV)

Proverbs 25:19 Trusting in a treacherous man in time of trouble is like a bad tooth or a foot that slips. (ESV)

Proverbs 13:20 Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm. (ESV)

Proverbs 16:28 A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends. (ESV)

Proverbs 17:9 Whoever covers an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends.

How are friendships developed?

Proverbs 16:7 When a man's ways please the Lord, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him. (ESV)

Proverbs 17:17a A friend loves at all times... (ESV)

Job 6:14 He who withholds kindness from a friend forsakes the fear of the Almighty. (ESV)

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

Ephesians 4:1-6 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ... (ESV)

Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Acts 2:42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (ESV)

Proverbs 25:17 Let your foot be seldom in your neighbor's house, lest he have his fill of you and hate you. (ESV)

Romans 12:10-11 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. (ESV)

Proverbs 27:9 Oil and perfume make the heart glad, and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel. (ESV)

How are deep, lasting friendships developed?

John 15:12-14 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. (ESV)

1 John 3:16 By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

Galatians 6:1-2 Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (ESV)

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

Proverbs 27:6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.

James 5:19-20 My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins. (ESV)

Friendships may fail...

Psalms 55:12-14 For it is not an enemy who taunts me— then I could bear it; it is not an adversary who deals insolently with me— then I could hide from him. But it is you, a man, my equal, my companion, my familiar friend. We used to take sweet counsel together; within God's house we walked in the throng. (ESV)

Only one friendship is everlasting...

Romans 5:8 But God proves His love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Joshua 1:5 As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.

Romans 8:38-39 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NASB)

Jeremiah 31:3 The LORD appeared to us in the past saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.