Everyone needs a good friend.

"I'm the kind of friend you can depend on. I'm always around when I need you."

"Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another, 'What! You too? I thought I was the only one.' ~ C.S. Lewis

• Gilbert Uehling

Part 1: The Traits of a Good Friend
Part 2: The Traits of a Bad Friend
Part 3: The Traits of an Ideal Friend
Part 1: The Traits of a Good Friend

**Proverbs 18:24**

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

1) They are with you in all circumstances of life, through thick and thin, as it’s said.

**SLIDE OF WOODS**

When England was still a predominantly wooded country, there were few roads and the landscape consisted of mixed woodland and grass. This is what people had to travel through. The phrase originated as 'through thicket and thin wood', which described traveling through the 'thick' English countryside at the time.

This is a friend who will travel that countryside with you.

**Proverbs 17:17**

17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

It has been said, "If you really wanna know who your friends are, make a big mistake."

A brother is born to walk with you through the thick woods of life. They’ve seen you at your worst, but have stuck by you.

- **Men and friendships**

“History is replete with examples of robust male friendships that are full of affection and expressions of love and yet are not sexual.

Unfortunately, the sexual revolution has made it more difficult to imagine passionate philos apart from eros. That’s why revisionist historians read romantic notions into Teddy Roosevelt’s affectionate letters to his closest friends. People wonder out loud about Abraham Lincoln’s sharing a bed with his friend, Joshua Speed. It’s hard for our society to understand how King David could weep so terribly over the lost love of Jonathan unless there was some sort of romance between them.” (Trevin Wax, TGC)

**1 Samuel 18:1**

18 As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.
"Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another, 'What! You too? I thought I was the only one." ~ C.S. Lewis

1 Samuel 18:4
4 And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt.

2) Friends make sacrifices for one another.

1 Samuel 19:1-3
19 And Saul spoke to Jonathan his son and to all his servants, that they should kill David. But Jonathan, Saul’s son, delighted much in David. 2 And Jonathan told David, “Saul my father seeks to kill you. Therefore be on your guard in the morning. Stay in a secret place and hide yourself. 3 And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are, and I will speak to my father about you. And if I learn anything I will tell you.”

3) Friends have your back. They look out for you.

2 Samuel 1:26
26 I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; very pleasant have you been to me; your love to me was extraordinary, surpassing the love of women.

4) Friendship can be as satisfying as romantic love.

Proverbs 27:5-6
5 Better is open rebuke than hidden love. 6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse (abundant) are the kisses of an enemy.

5) They tell you the truth.

"A true friend stabs you in the front." ~ Oscar Wilde

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

6) They tell you the truth and afterward, they don’t bring it up again.

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

7) They have the kind of character that elevates your character.

They have the kind of relationship with Christ that makes you press on in your relationship with Christ.
"I love you, not only for what you are, but for what I am when I'm with you.

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

If your friends are wise, you will become wiser. If your friends are fools, they can influence you to make foolish choices.

1 Corinthians 15:33
33 Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.”

Part 2: The Traits of a Bad Friend (or The Kind of Friend to Avoid)

Proverbs 18:1-2
18 Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment.
2 A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.

1) Avoid the friend who is a loner.

Now, some people are introverts and it's harder from them to make friends. This is not the kind of person the Scripture is talking about.

It's referring to the kind of person who doesn't want anyone speaking into his life. This is the person who doesn't like small groups for that very reason.

This is the person who doesn't believe in organized religion. Over and over again, Proverbs tells us that fools don't like instruction. Fools don't like rebuke. Fools don't like to be corrected.

2) Avoid the friend who isn't a good listener.

They are full of themselves, their own opinions and their own ideas. They want to avoid dialogue with someone who might know more than they do. They isolate themselves.

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

3) Avoid the friend who tries to persuade you to go against your convictions.

Just as the Christian wants to be used by God to influence people to trust in Christ and
rejoices when that happens, there are people who delight in influencing people to make wicked choices. It’s the sense of control, that they’ve influenced someone to make a decision, even though it’s a horribly destructive choice.

**Proverbs 14:6-7**

6 A scoffer seeks wisdom in vain, but knowledge is easy for a man of understanding.
7 Leave the presence of a fool, for there you do not meet words of knowledge.

4) Avoid friends who are never serious.

This isn’t about avoiding people who have a sense of humor. This is about avoiding the person who doesn’t take the big questions of life seriously. People who say things like, “Nobody knows anyway. They’re all guessing.” Someone who doesn’t want to engage in a dialogue.

This is a recurring theme with fools. They don’t want to have a conversation. Oh, fools are willing to talk. But they’re not willing to listen.

**Proverbs 22:24-25**

24 Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man,
25 lest you learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare.

5) Avoid friends with explosive tempers.

Part 3: The Traits of an Ideal Friend (The Friend We All Need)

**Proverbs 17:17**

17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

**Proverbs 18:24**

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

In all my friendships, I’ve never had this kind of friendship and I’ve never been that kind of friend.

- Gilbert Uehling Reprised

**John 15:13-15**

13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 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.

Conclusion:
A) Jesus is the friend we all need.
B) He is the friend who sticks closer than a brother.
C) He is the friend who shares everything He has with you.
D) He is the friend who has your back.
E) He is the friend who tells you the truth.
F) He is the friend who doesn't repeat a matter once you've confessed it.
G) He is the friend who sharpens you.
H) He is the friend who makes you wise.
I) He is the friend who loves you at all times.
J) He is the friend who sticks closer than a brother.
K) He is the friend who was born for adversity.
L) He is the friend who was born to give His life for your sins.
M) Jesus is the Friend of sinners.

Jesus is the Friend we all need.


15 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”