

# HOW TO GROW AS A FRIEND

## John Vawter and Jim Wetherbe

### INTRODUCTION

A friend is one who knows you as you are, understands where you have been, accepts who you have become and still gently invites you to grow (Cecil Schmidt)

Friendship is a bunch of ...

Effort...Love...Work...Time...Care...Hope (Wayzata Jr. High School, MN)

### WORDS OF CHALLENGE

We have responsibility in friendships. No one owes friendship to us. We earn them and we work to keep them. So, why do people come close to or move away from us?

**Do not be resentful...** "But the people there did not welcome Him, because He was heading to Jerusalem. When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, 'Lord, do You want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?' But, Jesus turned and rebuked them and they went to another village." Luke 9:53-56

\*  
\*  
\*

**Do not be a grouch...** "He who sows wickedness reaps trouble. Drive out the mocker/scoffer and out goes strife; quarrels and insults are ended." Proverbs 22:8a and 10. "Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation in which you shine like stars in the universe..." Philippians 2:14-15

\*  
\*  
\*

### WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

We cannot assume we are good friends to others. We must work at it.

**Be patient...** "As a prisoner of the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." Ephesians 4:1-2

\*  
\*

**Remember fallenness...**”For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned....” Romans 3:23 and 5:12

\*

\*

**Be a peacemaker...**”Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.” Matthew 5:6

\*

\*

**Cooperate with the Holy Spirit...**”Do not be drunk with wine, but be filled with the Holy Spirit.” Ephesians 5:18

\*

\*

## **Personal Application**