

Relationships Matter

*"A friend loveth at all times..."
(Proverbs 17:17).*

The more we understand the world in which we live, the better we comprehend the Bible and relationships. Deep within each of us is a desire for love and friendship that stems from our Creator. We are created for relationships- First with God, and then with others.

Today, I am not talking to you about the "fair weather" relationships that leave almost as quickly as they come. Today, I am talking about the relationships that truly matter. The ones where there is a true depth to the relationship. The ones that have withstood the turbulence and misunderstandings. The ones where you are free to be you.

Here are some facts about friendship:

Friends must be sincere with one another in order for the relationship to grow.

Friends are not always found easily and almost always require work.

There is no doubt they are a blessing from God.

Lastly, like any relationship, friendship needs to be nurtured or it will die.

Friendships are the most beautiful experience we can encounter on this earth. They are a gift from God and should be treated as such. Jesus defines it as more than a mere mutual dependent relationship or casual politeness. It is the private sharing of one's life, giving of one's self, holding nothing back, not even one's own life.

*"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends"
(John 15:13).*

If you want to see who your true friends are, just make a mistake. It really hurts when we realize we are not as important to someone as they were to us and nothing hurts worse than when a friend walks away. A true friend will stick by your side, no matter what.

"A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: And there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother" (Proverbs 18:24).

Friendship is a close relationship between two people who share similar interests and values. You see, I've gone through a dark, lonely time of transition. Somehow I assumed some friendships would continue as I transitioned into this new season of life...unfortunately, some of them didn't (OUCH).

True friends are built over time and involve various levels of trust to grow. Friendships bring an unbelievable amount of joy. Friends assist you through difficult times, provide you with guidance, support you and help you physically, emotionally or spiritually. A true friend is the one who will stick with you. Above all, a true friend is steadfast and the greatest characteristic of friendship is loyalty.

The truth is, friends can change your life and you can change their life. The good news is every one has the opportunity be a true friend. Being a true friend is a choice. However, true friendship is costly. We must be willing to pay the price. After all, to have a friend, we have to be a friend.

Friendships are based upon commitment, not circumstances. I'm so grateful that throughout my life, I have had friends who love me regardless. They give me the grace to make mistakes. They put their arm around me and help me when I've made a mistake.

"Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful" (Proverbs 27:6)

I love how my true friends love me even through the worst and best of times (Just like I love them!) And trust me, I've blown it big time with some of my friends! Nothing hurts worse when you live through "If you deeply offend a friend, it may be very hard to recover them" (Proverbs 18:19). Overcoming adversity together builds relationship...

Jesus is the pure example of a true friend, for He laid down His life for His "friends. His acts of love should be our examples of selflessness to follow in our own lives.

"You have found Jesus Christ to be a true brother and a blessed friend, now let the same be true of you" (CH Spurgeon).

Dr. Gina Cobb
November 18, 2016