

The Love of a Friend

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

Friendship. Most Friendships are such a blessing from God. I am not talking to you about the "fair weather" relationships that leave almost as quickly as they come, or the ones that suck the life out of you. Deep within each one is a desire for love and friendship that stems from God. You were and are created for relationships- First with God, and then with others. Friendships are based upon commitment, not circumstances.

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. True friends build over time and involve various levels of trust to grow. They assist you through difficult times, provide you with guidance, support you and help you physically, emotionally or spiritually. Above all, a true friend is steadfast and the greatest characteristic of friendship is loyalty.

Friendships are one of the most beautiful experiences on this earth. There is nothing better than a good friend. 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. But, a true friend - oh 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 sticks closer than a brother" (Proverbs 18:24).

The truth is, friends can change your life and you can change their life. 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).

So take time over the next few days and love on your friends!

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