



Friends Like These

What Is a Friend?

Proverbs 17:17; 1 Samuel 18:1-4; 20

Series Overview:

- How can I be a good friend?
- How do I pick friends?
- Do I need friends?
- What Do I Do When a Friend Hurts Me?
- **What is a friend?**

Proverbs 17:17

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

A friend affectionately loves

- “A friend loves at all times” (Proverbs 17:17).
- Jonathan loved David
 - “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” (1 Samuel 18:1).
 - “29 Jesus answered, 'The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all

your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ 31 The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these” (Mark 12:29-31).

- Have you told your friend(s) you love them?

A friend covenantally commits

- “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity” (Proverbs 17:17).
 - Family is for difficult times.
 - Friends are for all times.
- Jonathan was committed to David
 - “**3** Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. **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” (1 Samuel 18:3-4).
 - “A covenantal friend doesn’t use you. He *enjoys* you” (Drew Hunter, *Made for Friendship*, 84).
- Are you one of the first people your friends turn to?

A friend sacrificially serves

- Jonathan served David.
 - “Then David fled from Naioth in Ramah and came and said before Jonathan, ‘What have I done? What is my guilt? And what is my sin before your father, that he seeks my life?’ **2** And he said to him, ‘Far from it! You shall not die. Behold, my father does nothing either great or small without disclosing it to me. And why should my father hide this from me? It is not so.’ **3** But David vowed again, saying, ‘Your father knows well that I have found favor in your eyes, and he thinks, ‘Do not let Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved.’ But truly, as the Lord lives and as your soul lives, there is but a step between me and death.’ **4** Then Jonathan said to David, ‘Whatever you say, I will do for you’” (1 Samuel 20:1-4).
 - Jonathan is a great example of a friend, but Jesus is a better example!
 - “**12** This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. **13** Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:12-13).
- Can you name the last time you served your friends?

Application:

- Have you told your friend(s) you love them?
- Are you one of the first people your friends turn to?
- Can you name the last time you served your friends?

A friend loves, commits, and serves for the good of their friend.