

# PEARLS OF WISDOM SELECT PROVERBS



"friendship recession"

## 1) How to have good friends

- Seek friends intentionally <sup>1</sup>

***An unfriendly person pursues selfish ends and against all sound judgment starts quarrels (Proverbs 18:1).***

***One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother (Proverbs 18:24).***

- Choose your friends wisely <sup>2</sup>

***Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm (Proverbs 13:20).***

***Do not make friends with a hot tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered, or you may learn their ways and get yourself ensnared (Proverbs 22:24-25).***

- Guard your friendships carefully

- o considerate of timing

***Seldom set foot in your neighbor's house—too much of you, and they will hate you (Proverbs 25:17).*** <sup>3</sup>

- o considerate of mood

***If anyone loudly blesses their neighbor early in the morning, it will be taken as a curse (Proverbs 27:14).*** <sup>4</sup>

- o with discretion

***A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends (Proverbs 16:28).***

***Whoever would foster love covers over an offense, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends (Proverbs 17:9).***

## 2) How to be a good friend

- Your presence

***Do not forsake your friend or a friend of your family, and do not go to your relative's house when disaster strikes you – better a neighbor nearby than a relative far away (Proverbs 27:10).*** <sup>5</sup>

- Your words

***Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice (Proverbs 27:9).*** <sup>6</sup>

***Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses (Proverbs 27:6).***

- Your love

***A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity (Proverbs 17:17).***

## 3) Why you should seek the best friend

***...but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother (Proverbs 18:24b).*** <sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Genesis 1:4, 10, 18, 21, 25 and 31; Genesis 2:18; Philippians 2:20; John 15:15

<sup>2</sup> Proverbs 12:26; 1 Corinthians 15:33

<sup>3</sup> John 6:37

<sup>4</sup> Mark 7:32-35; 8:22-26

<sup>5</sup> Psalm 46:1

<sup>6</sup> 1 Samuel 23:16

<sup>7</sup> Hebrews 13:5; Psalm 19:10; 119:103; John 6:67-68; Jeremiah 31:3; Lamentations 3:22-23; John 15:13