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Responsible Christian Friends

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Series: Living Lessons From Proverbs

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Responsible Christian Friends

As the years go by there are probably few things in life that give us more satisfaction than to look back at our lives and consider the quality of friendships we have (and have had). Somehow, they seem to be a more lasting legacy than stocks and bonds, or even than a list of community accomplishments. To be able to come to the end of your life and know that a part of your life is now a part of the lives of a special group of other people—people you call your friends—brings you immeasurable joy.

Today we're going to talk about friends as we wind down our study of Responsible Christians by looking at what the Bible says about Responsible Christian Friends. That's our title "Responsible Christian Friends" and here's our outline:

- I- Learning about friends
- II- Learning to befriend
- III- Learning to BE FRIENDS
 - A- Ungodly friendships
 - B- Godly friendships
 - C- God's kind of friendships (John 15:12-15)

Friends come in many shapes and sizes. There are "fair weather friends" and "true blue friends." There are childhood friendships and lifetime friendships. There are surface friendships and friends who are "closer than a brother". We've all come to realize, I think, that friendships come easy for children. There is an innocent trust and a need for companionship, and in but a few hours, two children can become inseparable!

Friendships still come relatively easy during the school years, but even then, some young people seem to be surrounded by friends, while others seem unable to develop meaningful relationships. Some have surface friendships but few friends they can confide in, while still others seem to attract almost no acquaintances, but they are able to develop a few really close friends—friends with whom they can literally share their hearts.

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Some singles make friends at the drop of a hat. Still others seem destined to be almost solitary in their existence, loners unnoticed by the flood of lives that surround them. Young married couples often build lasting friendships from the common bonds and the common needs they face as they begin a whole new kind of life, but their children begin to grow and begin to occupy their time, job changes cause those couples who had literally become a part of their lives to be scattered throughout the world, and somehow new friendships often aren't as deep, and often don't come as easily as they did before.

So as we grow older, (and older in the faith) we often make excuses for why we just don't "Have many real friends anymore."

The purpose of today's lesson is to examine the absolutes of Scripture to determine if friendships are really important to the Christian, and if so, HOW important. We are going to see, from God's perspective, WHY you need friends, HOW you make friends, How you KEEP friends, and even How you LOSE friends by violating God's principles of friendship.

Of course, our objective is understanding (not just knowledge), so our real purpose is to take a look at our own friendships in the light of the God's Word and determine what God might have US do to become RESPONSIBLE CHRISTIAN FRIENDS!

Before we go to Proverbs for principles, we have to address a major issue where friendships are concerned. As we will remind ourselves momentarily, God cautions us in the Scriptures that while deep friendships are foundational in the Christian faith, WRONG FRIENDSHIPS are the TNT explosives the enemy uses so often to destroy the Christian's character. But at the same time, we are taught that the attributes of friendliness are the cornerstones of Christian behavior.

The dilemma is how can I conscientiously be discriminating in choosing my friendships if I'm supposed to be everybody's friend? It's an issue, I believe, that can be easily solved. It all centers around the difference between learning to befriend and learning to BE friends!

We have two totally different words translated "friend" in the New Testament. The first is a term of endearment. It means loved, beloved, dear, an intimate friendship. It's the term Jesus used to describe His friendship with us in John 15, and it is

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the word used in James 2:23 to describe Abraham's "friendship" with God that resulted from his faith.

The second word translated "friend" in the New Testament, means literally an associate or a companion. It has more to do with responsibility than relationship. In fact, Jesus used this word in Matthew 26:20, when the one who was to betray Him led His captors to Him in Gethsemane. And even as they came to seize Him, Jesus said to Judas, "Friend, do what you came for." He addressed him with *acceptance*, but not with *intimacy*. Obviously, there are "friends" and there are "friends".

We get further help by looking at the dictionary. There we see two basic concepts of friendship emerge as well. We see friend defined this way:

Friend:

- 1- Person one knows, likes, and trusts; favored companion.
- 2- Any associate or acquaintance.

If we look at the word "befriend", however, I think the smoke begins to clear away. It says this:

To befriend is to act as a friend; to assist.

So the bottom line is this: there are two kinds of friendship relationships in a Christian life. One is to befriend. The other is to BE friends! The Christian, we will find, is to befriend everyone; especially those of the household of faith. But the Christian is to BE FRIENDS with a few specially chosen people God calls into his or her life who literally exchange their lives one for the other. The Christian is to place no limits on who he befriends. (The story of the Good Samaritan explains that.) WHOEVER NEEDS BEFRIENDING IS THE OBJECT OF THE CHRISTIAN'S FRIENDLINESS OR CONCERN. But the Christian's close friendships—those intimate heart to heart exchanges of lives—are for a special purpose, and God has special principles for us to apply.

We will look at learning to befriend and learning to BE friends! But our emphasis will obviously be on the latter, for the issue of befriending will surface in detail in our final section of Proverbs, but just remember this as a foundation for that study. Learning to befriend or reach out to others is a hallmark of the

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Christian's character. It is the essence of lifestyle evangelism. It is the developing of relationships through meeting needs.

The Christian church is not an oasis in the desert to which its members flee to escape contact with the world. The church is leaven. The church is light. The church is life. If we do not become vulnerable in meeting the needs of the world spiritually, physically, and emotionally, (but especially spiritually), we are not, by definition, the Church at all! If you are not willing to befriend that person at work whose language is so repulsive, you will never have an impact on his life. Jesus was called the "friend of publicans and sinners" because HE BEFRIENDED THEM! He went where they were, exposed himself to misunderstandings in order to bring into their lives God, in human form, willing to love them in spite of their sin. You and I are commanded to do the same!

We are to go into all of the world, first to our Jerusalem, investing our lives in communicating what God in human form is like today. We are called to "befriend" the whole world especially those in our Jerusalem and especially those in our Jerusalem with needs. And we are called to befriend in a unique way every member of the household of faith—every Christian who has a need. But the real issue of the hour is the issue of BEING FRIENDS, of developing those unique relationships where two lives interact with each other until each becomes to some degree a part of the other.

Parents sometimes have that kind of relationship with their children (at least at times in their lives; at least up until the teen years.) Husbands and wives OUGHT to have that kind of relationship in their marriage. My wife is my BEST friend, and if you're married, your mate ought to be the dearest friend you've ever had. That's what's lacking in so many marriages today—real friendship.

Discipleship relationships are another example: Discipleship is, in reality, merely friendship with a defined purpose. But even outside of those relationships, there exists that man to man, woman to woman bond in the Spirit that exchanges one life for another—not only willingly, but joyfully! But because of the effects of that exchange of life; because those two lives so radically become intertwined, God has some clear cut principles in His Word about establishing real friendships. They are

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similar in substance to the principles He gave Israel regarding relationships with the nations round about them. At a later time, we'll learn to befriend.

By looking primarily at principles from Proverbs, let's learn to BE FRIENDS. We'll look first at ungodly friendships, the kind of friendships God says we ought not to have.

Ungodly Friendships

Here are some clear-cut precepts from Proverbs. Let's begin with the precept that ungodly friendships are displeasing to God. We will begin by defining ungodly as it applies to friendships.

- Ungodly = those relationships which (because of spiritual incompatibility or the absence of common objectives) do not glorify God.
- Friendship = two friends in the same ship. Two people who are sailing common seas in a common boat to a common port, using a common route.

To be real friends, you must be going to the same place, and hopefully, taking the same course to get there. So, please understand what I'm saying: intimate friendships with unbelievers are not really possible.

You can befriend them, but you cannot, in the intimate sense of friendship, BE FRIENDS (at least, now without consequences) because you are not controlled by the same spirit. Amos asks the question:

How can two walk together except they be agreed?
(Amos 3:3)

II Corinthians 6:14-17 paraphrased explains.

Can a believer have fellowship (a real relationship) with unbelievers? Can light coexist with darkness?

Can Christ and Satan walk together?

What does a Christian have in common with a non-Christian that can serve as a foundation for unity? Can the temple of God and the temple of Satan interact? You are, you know, the temple of God.

So you must come out from among those close relationships with unbelievers and separate your soul from theirs.

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Now please listen, I'm not talking about befriending. You must befriend those unbelievers God places in your Jerusalem. You reach out to them. You minister to them. You spend time with them. To befriend means to allow the Holy Spirit in you to demonstrate through you "THE MIND OF CHRIST".

But it is basically a one-way street. You do not open your soul to them simply because light and darkness cannot co-exist. You minister to them because light casts out darkness. But you do not go to them for counsel. You do not learn from them concepts of character. You do not receive from them ideas about moral absolutes. You cannot! You must not! Listen now to what Proverbs teaches about ungodly friendships. Pay attention and be sure, if you have teenagers, that THEY understand who their friends should or shouldn't be and why! Teach them these verses:

My son, if sinners entice you, do not give in to them.
If they say, "Come along with us;
throw your in your lot with us,
my son, do not go along with them, do not set foot on their
paths;
for their feet rush into sin,"
(Proverbs 1:10,11a,14a,15,16a NIV)

The inference is so will yours.

For the LORD grants wisdom!...
He shows how to distinguish right from wrong, how to find
the right decision every time.
You will be given the sense (*enough*) to stay away from evil
men (*the wrong people*)... (Proverbs 2:6a,9,11 TLB)

God has a sensor—the Holy Spirit through the Word—who will set off an alarm warning you of wrong friendships if you ask him!

Be with wise men and you will become wise. Be with evil
men and you will, like them, become evil.
(Proverbs 13:20 TLB)

If you are looking for advice, stay away from fools.
(Proverbs 14:7 TLB)

(Fools, you remember, are those who do not have the mind of Christ).

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The common bond of rebels is their guilt. The common bond of the godly is good will (*or God's will*).

(Proverbs 14:9 TLB)

The wicked enjoy fellowship with others who are wicked; liars enjoy liars.

(Proverbs 17:4 TLB)

That literally means who your children are drawn to for friends tells what their heart is really like.

Make no friendship with an angry man and with a furious man thou shalt not go:

Lest thou learn his ways and get a snare unto thy soul. You'll become just like him!

(Proverbs 22:24,25)

Don't associate with evil men;

(Proverbs 23:6a TLB)

My son, watch your step... and don't associate with radicals.

(Proverbs 24:21 TLB)

The principles are clear. Go over them with your sons and daughters. They are:

- 1- Who your friends are will determine who you become.
- 2- Who you choose for friends reflects your inner character.
- 3- God will give you discernment regarding friendships if you'll ask Him.
- 4- Close friendships with unbelievers are not the will of God.
5. Don't get your counsel from those who do not have God's perspective. It'll ruin you!
6. The common bond that builds unholy friendships is guilt. The common bond that builds holy friendships is Jesus Christ.

Young people must come to understand those principles and parents must be willing to control their children's friendships while they are still able. Likewise, adults must not build deep relationships with those whose spiritual goals in life are different.

When the storms of life come, those friends will counsel you contrary to the Word. And they will lead you into moral compromise in defiance of the Word. How many marriages dissolve because the wife or the husband, under the influence and counsel of well-meaning friends, defied the scripture—choosing the advice of the world to the absolutes of the Word?

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My friend, it does not work! You and I, and your children and mine, will basically become the product of our friendships. You ought to befriend them all. You allow Christ in you to minister to them, but you BE FRIENDS with those who are in the same ship going to the same place and going there the same way! Your souls can interact with them because your spirits have been born again by the same Holy Spirit.

It's a tough principle, but it's an absolute. Israel defied it and paid the consequences. Countless millions of Christians have defied it and paid the consequences. And if you or your children defy it, you both will pay the consequences. It's written in the Word and in the sands of history, as well.

How to be a Responsible Christian Friend

So we've learned a little about who we are and who we aren't to have close friendships with. Now let's see what Proverbs and the rest of Scripture have to say about how to be a responsible Christian friend.

Let's look and see what friendships really are! Let's ask ourselves first. What are Friendships for? And let's answer that question from the Word.

1- Friendships are designed to help us through adversity or tribulation.

A friend loves at ALL times, and a brother is born for adversity.
(Proverbs 17:17 NKJV)

One of the hallmarks of true friendship is who you turn to in times of trouble. There is no such thing Scripturally, as a "fair-weather friend".

The darker the clouds, the deeper the waters the closer "real friends" become. In fact, we have here a scriptural definition of a friend: "One who is born for adversity, one who came into the world to help another through his trials." A true friend NEVER STOPS LOVING. "At all times" simply means "at all times"!

2- Real friendships are designed to experience and to share both grief and joy. Not only is a true friend always there, he or she hurts when you hurt, and rejoices with the same measure of joy you have, when you have cause for rejoicing.

Read John 11:28-35 and see real friendship in action. There,

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Mary and Martha have confronted Jesus with the apparent truth that Lazarus was dead.

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.

“Where have you laid him?” He asked. “Come and see, Lord,” they replied.

Jesus wept!

(John 11:33-35 NIV)

Now, was Jesus weeping because Lazarus was dead? Not hardly!! He knew what He was about to do! Jesus was weeping because His friends were weeping, and a REAL friend, one whose soul is one with yours, cannot suffer that you, too, do not suffer. You hurt because they are hurting.

That’s the kind of friend Jesus was to Mary and Martha, and that’s the kind of friend Jesus is to you and to me. When we weep, He weeps. Oh, that we had God’s perspective of the love of Christ! He cares! He care!

That’s why He caused HIS spirit to write,

(Believers) Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

Be of the same mind one toward another.

(Romans 12:15,16)

In Luke 15:3-9, Jesus shared two parables: one about a lost sheep, another about a lost coin, and in verse 5,

And when he (*the owner of the lost sheep*) hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbors, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.” (Luke 15:5,6)

And in verse 9, the woman who lost the precious coin, called her friends together, saying,

Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece (*coin*) which I had lost. (Luke 15:9b)

Real friends get as excited over their friend’s victories as they do their own. God has graciously given me a few friends like that, and when God answers prayer or meets a need in my life, I can’t wait to call them; because when I do, they get as excited as I do, and my joy is multiplied, and likewise I get as excited over their

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times of rejoicing as I do over my own.

3- Real friendships produce spiritual stability and growth (that's why they must be Godly friendships).

Iron sharpeneth iron, so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

As in water, face answereth to face, so the heart of man to man. (Proverbs 27:17,19)

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work:

If one falls down, his friend can help him up, but pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up.

Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone?

Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 NIV)

The message of these three passages is clear. God designed friendships to be spiritual counterbalances in the Christian's life.

When one is under attack, his friend is able to encourage Him. Later, his friend may be under attack, and he can do the same. If someone has no real Christ-controlled friends, the process of recovery may be extended needlessly, for who will be there to help him up?

The next verse says that spiritual warmth is a product of friendships. Like coals, which go out unless other coals are alongside to magnify their warmth, so believers without friends can more easily grow cold. The following verse says that when the battle is on, one may easily be defeated if he fights alone, but two standing together compound the enemy's problem several-fold.

And the last verse finally adds, there's one thing stronger than two friends standing together, and that's a trio, who are each committed to both of the others; "a three fold cord is just not easily broken."

So friendships are essential ingredients in God's recipe for spiritual maturity.

4- Real friends are God's agents of intercession. One beautiful

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illustration of this is the centurion's friends in Luke, chapter seven. They came to Jesus and interceded on his behalf, taking their friend's needs and their friend's concerns to the Master when the centurion was unable to do it himself.

Another is Jesus' praying for His friend Peter,

Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you like wheat
(Jesus said).

But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not
fail. (Luke 22:31,32a NIV)

Peter was about to curse and deny that he ever knew the Master, but Jesus was praying for HIM! What a friend we have in Jesus, what a friend indeed! But perhaps the greatest example of all is in Job 42:10, when Job prayed, at God's request for his three "friends"; "friends", who in the name of friendship, (having misunderstood the nature of God and the purpose of God in suffering) had condemned their friend under the guise of encouraging him. God said, "Job, you intercede for them," and verse 10 reads,

And the Lord turned the captivity of Job when he prayed for
his friends: (Job 42:10a)

One of the greatest callings of friendship is intercession. We read of Jesus, our perfect friend.

He ever liveth to make intercession for us. (Hebrews 7:25b)

Ought we to do any less for *our* friends?

5- Real friendships are a demonstration of unselfishness. It is not what you can get out of a friendship that matters, it is what you can *give!*

In John, chapter three, beginning with verse 27, we read this interesting story. John the Baptist is speaking, answering those who came to him exclaiming that his friend, Jesus, was receiving *all* the glory... that the big crowds were attending *His* services. John answered them this way:

To this John replied, "A man can receive only what is given to him from heaven.

You yourselves can testify that I said 'I am not the Christ but am sent ahead of Him.

The bride belongs to the bridegroom: but the FRIEND who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for Him, and is

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full of joy when he hears the Bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and is now complete.

He must become greater; I must become less."

(John 3:27-30 NIV)

The *real* friend receives his joy when his friend becomes successful, even at *his* expense. Beloved, that's God's kind of friendship.

There isn't time to elaborate on the other principles Proverbs surfaces about friendships, but let's mention them.

6- Real friendships are forever.

Never abandon a friend—

(Proverbs 27:10a TLB)

7- Treat friendships delicately. Once destroyed, restoration is difficult.

It is harder to win back the friendship of an offended brother than it is to capture a fortified city. He shuts you out like iron bars

(Proverbs 18:19 TLB)

8- Rebuke from a friend is an act of love. Learn to accept it.

Open rebuke is better than hidden love.

Wounds from a friend are better than kisses from an enemy!

(Proverbs 27:5,6 TLB)

9- Not every one who claims to be your friend really is.

There are "friends" who pretend to be friends, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

(Proverbs 18:24 TLB)

Most people will tell you what loyal friends they are, but are they telling the truth?

(Proverbs 20:6 TLB)

In other words, telling someone you're their friend does not constitute friendship. When they're hurting, do you hurt? When they're lonely, are you there?

Friendship is a demonstrated art. A man knows you're his friend by your availability, not by your conversation. Friends, real friends, are an incredible gift from God. They stand by you in adversity, enter into your joy or your grief, intercede for your every need, standing by as your spiritual counterweight, ready to help you up when you start to fall. A real friend is unselfish. He wants you to receive the accolades, he simply wants to be a part of making YOU successful.

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But the Scripture not only tells you how to *make* friends, and how to *keep* friends, it tells you how to *lose* friends (by violating simple Scriptural principles). Listen:

An evil man sows strife; gossip separates the best of friends.
(Proverbs 16:28 TLB)

Gossip is dynamite, set off by the spark of an uncontrolled tongue. It will literally destroy a friendship. Proverbs 17:9 tells us an unforgiving spirit will destroy a friendship. It says this: “Love forgets mistakes. Nagging about them parts the best of friends. If you read between the lines in Proverbs 3:28, you’ll find three things that are like acid to a friendship: a presumptuous spirit, unpaid debts, and unnecessary borrowing—three incredibly fast ways to take advantage of a friend and destroy a friendship in the process.

God’s Word is a crystal clear mirror. It reflects without distortion the heart of God where friendships are concerned. A friendship is the cement that binds a life to a life and doubles its capacity to stand. A friendship is the extension of Christ’s compassion that stands in the gap and cries out to God on behalf of another. A friendship is the medicine that makes the nerve ends of the heart more sensitive until you literally weep when another weeps; you literally leap for joy at the joy of another. A friendship is a portrait painted with perfection on the canvas of Christian lives—a portrait of the friendship that now exists between a man and His God, because of Calvary! And that friendship serves to demonstrate for us the three ingredients that are essential if you and I are to become God’s kind of friends.

Turn to John, chapter 15, and let’s see what responsible Christian friendships are all about.

My command is this: love each other as I have loved you.

Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

You are my friends, if you do what I command.

(In other words, if you believe my Words enough to bank your life on them.)

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father, I have made known to you.
(John 15:12-15 NIV)

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In those three verses, Jesus captures the three basic essentials of Christian friendship. Verse 13 shares a love that knows no limits willing, if necessary, to die if it means that your friend will live. Verse 14 demonstrates perfect trust in another's word. A real friend takes his friend at his word; he doesn't question his integrity. His friend isn't continually called on to "prove himself". He's accepted for who he is and believed by what he says. And in verse 15 there is total transparency. Nothing is hidden.

Jesus said, "Now you are my friends and everything my Father has told me, I have told to you, with no secrets no partial revelations. A real friend has nothing to hide." It is a love that knows no limits, has a perfect trust in another's word, and is totally transparent, with nothing hidden. These are the elements of real friendship.

You say, "Boy, would I like to have a friend like that." If you're a Christian, you do!

*"What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!*

*Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!*

You'd like to have a friend like that? If you're a Christian you do! And If you're not a Christian, you can!

The whole thrust of John 15 was that Jesus Christ wants to be your friend.

Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life
for his friends. (John 15:13 NIV)

And, Beloved,

God commended His love towards us, in that, while we were
yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

You can reach out today and experience the friendship of Jesus Christ for the first time in your life. He died on the cross to save you. Thank Him! He rose from the grave to live in your heart. Ask Him! He wants to become that real friend you've never had. Let Him!

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You'd like to have that kind of friend? If you're a Christian, you do! If you're not a Christian, you can, right now, by just asking Jesus Christ into your heart and you say, "I'd like to *be* that kind of friend, with total availability, total acceptance, total transparency. You will be if you let Jesus Christ, *your* friend, be through you, the kind of friend He is *to you!* You begin by praying and asking God to make you that kind of friend... not to *give* you that kind of friend, but to *make* you that kind of friend. We know it's His will, and "if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us," I John 5:14 says. So many people spend their time praying for God to GIVE them friends, when they ought to be praying that God would make them the kind of friend a friend would need. We get it so backwards. Begin by asking God to make you the kind of friend to someone that Jesus is to you.

Secondly, begin developing the qualities that make a friend a friend. Concentrate on such attributes as commitment, confidence, loyalty, and transparency. You can't have friends until you can BE a friend.

A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly:
(Proverbs 18:24a)

And then lastly, when—not if but when—God answers your prayers and either gives you Godly friendships, or deepens the ones you have, remember. It is not what you GET from a friendship; it is what you GIVE that makes you a friend. A real friend doesn't give himself grudgingly, but joyfully.

Learn to give your life away the way Jesus did, and you will find what it means to become "Responsible Christian Friends!" May I suggest to you that some of you need to stop today and make a phone call or two, or write a letter or two and just thank those special people who have changed the course of your lives just by being real friends. When was the last time you said "Thanks"? And some of us need to revise our prayer lists and spend some time each day just praying for and praising God for our friends. I have one friend that calls long distance nearly every week just to tell me he's praying for me, and just to see if I have any special needs. I have another friend who is constantly calling just to encourage me, another one who discerns my spirit like a book and is willing even to rebuke me, to draw me back into fellowship when I need it. That's a friend. I have still another friend whose whole ministry seems to be quietly in the shade,

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doing things to ultimately make my ministry successful.

I certainly don't deserve those friendships, but by God's Grace, as a result of this study, I am praying to become the kind of a friend my friends deserve.

Oh, what an impact the church of Jesus Christ could have on the world, if we became what we were meant to be a family of people who had learned at last how to be friends!

WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO BE A FRIEND?

Wouldn't you like to be a friend
The way Jesus is to you?
Wouldn't you like to know for sure
That when your life is through,

A part of your life will go on and on
Just the way God intends,
Because part of your life is now a part
Of the heart of your Christian friends?

You're part of their life because you had
A love that was not bound;
The kind of love Christ had for you
A friendship THAT profound!

You're part of their life, because, as well,
Their word was enough for you
There was a trust that questioned not
Whether that word was true.

You're also part of their life because
No matter the kind of attack,
You still remained transparent.
There was nothing to hold back

So your life and theirs, to some degree,
In spirit have been combined,
For Jesus has taken the best of both
And in Him they are intertwined

Would you like to be that kind of friend?
Then here's what you have to do:
Ask God to make YOU the kind of friend
That Jesus is to You!

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