

Six Marks of True Friendship

MARK #1: A True Friend _____ Closer Than A Brother (Proverbs 18:24).

Proverbs 18:24: “A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”

MARK #2: A True Friend _____ At All Times (Proverbs 17:17).

Proverbs 17:17: “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.”

MARK #3: A True Friend Gives Good _____ (Proverbs 27:9).

Proverbs 27:9: “Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of one’s friend springs from his earnest counsel.”

MARK #4: A True Friend Will _____ You (Proverbs 27:17).

Proverbs 27:17: “As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”

MARK #5: A True Friend Will _____ You In Order to Help You (Proverbs 27:5-6).

Proverbs 27:5-6: “Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.”

MARK #6: A True Friend Will Not _____ You (Proverbs 27:10).

Proverbs 27:10: “Do not forsake your friend and the friend of your father, and do not go to your brother’s house when disaster strikes you— better a neighbor nearby than a brother far away.”

A BIBLICAL EXAMPLE OF TRUE FRIENDSHIP The Story of David & Jonathan – 1 Samuel 18-23

1 Samuel 18:1-4: “After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself. ² From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return to his father’s house. ³ And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. ⁴ Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt.”

1 Samuel 23:16-18: And Saul’s son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God. ¹⁷ “Don’t be afraid,” he said. “My father Saul will not lay a hand on you. You will be king over Israel, and I will be second to you. Even my father Saul knows this.” ¹⁸ The two of them made a covenant before the Lord. Then Jonathan went home, but David remained at Horesh.”

How To Cultivate Solid Friendships

1. Be _____ if you want a friend.
2. Be _____ as it takes time.
3. Be _____ to others.
4. Be _____ to being a true friend.

FINAL THOUGHTS

To develop great friendships at SMC, why not begin by joining a Small Group?

NAVIGATING LIFE: A Study in Proverbs

Today's Message:

"A Friend that Sticks Closer than a Brother"

Pastor Cory Anderson / SMC / 08.28.11

INTRODUCTION:

Proverbs instructs us to choose our friends wisely...

Proverbs 12:26: "A righteous man is cautious in friendship, but the way of the wicked leads them astray."

Beware of...

➤ Friends that _____ you to sin (**Proverbs 1:8-19; 2:12-15; 16:29; 23:19-21**).

➤ Friends that are _____ (**Prov. 19:4, 6**).

Proverbs 19:4: "Wealth brings many friends, but a poor man's friend deserts him."

Proverbs 19:6: "Many curry favor with a ruler, and everyone is the friend of a man who gives gifts."

➤ Friends that are _____ (**Proverbs 19:4,7; 18:24**).

Proverbs 18:24: "One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin..."