

# friendship 1

the benefits of friendship

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**proverbs 27:10**

Never abandon a friend—  
either yours or your father's.

When disaster strikes, you won't have to ask  
your brother for assistance.

It's better to go to a neighbor than to a  
brother who lives far away.

A study found that one American in four reported having no close confidants [2004]... and there's little doubt that Facebook and texting and all the rest of it have already exacerbated the situation. The more people we know, the lonelier we get.

...it seems inevitable that once we decided to become friends with everyone, we would forget how to be friends with anyone...

Friendship is devolving from a relationship to a feeling...

- William Deresiewicz

*From Faux Friendship December 6, 2009*

In research at our clinic, my colleagues and I have discovered that friendship is the springboard to every other love. Friendship spill over onto the other relationships of life. People with no friends usually have a diminished capacity for sustaining any kind of love... failed marriages... problems at work. On the other hand, those who learn how to love their friends tend to make long and fulfilling marriages, get along well with the people at work, and enjoy their children.

- Alan Loy McGinnis  
From The Friendship Factor

Friendship is unnecessary, like philosophy,  
like art...

It has no survival value;  
rather it is one of those things that gives  
value to survival.

- C.S. Lewis

# the benefits of friendship

1. a place of strength
2. a place of support
3. a place of shaping
4. a place of safety

# benefits of friendship

1: a place of strength

## matthew 18:19

Again I say to you that if two of you shall agree on earth as regarding anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them by My Father in Heaven.

When we consider the blessings of God – the gifts that add beauty and joy to our lives, that enable us to keep going through stretches of boredom and even suffering – friendship is very near the top.

- Donald W. McCullough,  
Mastering Personal Growth



# benefits of friendship

2: a place of support

**proverbs 17:17**

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

# benefits of friendship

2: a place of support

## **ecclesiastes 4:9-10**

Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor.

For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he does not have another to help him.

# benefits of friendship

2: a place of support

## galatians 6:1-2

Brothers, if a man is overtaken in a fault, you the spiritual ones restore such a one in the spirit of meekness, considering yourself, lest you also be tempted.

Bear one another's burdens, and so you will fulfill the Law of Christ.

# benefits of friendship

3: a place of shaping

**proverbs 27:17**

Iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the face of his friend.

# benefits of friendship

3: a place of shaping

by association

**1 corinthians 15:33**

Do not be deceived; evil company corrupts good habits.

# benefits of friendship

3: a place of shaping

by speaking

**proverbs 27:6**

Open rebuke is better than secret love;  
faithful are the wounds of a friend...

# benefits of friendship

4: a place of safety

## proverbs 18:24

A man who has friends may be broken up,  
but there is a friend who sticks closer than a  
brother.

One's friends are that part of the human race  
with which one be human.

- George Santayana



# benefits of friendship

4: a place of safety

in honesty

**john 8:32**

And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

# benefits of friendship

4: a place of safety

in counsel

**proverbs 27:9; 11:14**

Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so does the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel.

Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.

A friend is a person with whom I may be sincere. Before him I may think aloud.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

# benefits of friendship

4: a place of safety

in transparency

**1 john 1:7,9**

But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

# benefits of friendship

4: a place of safety

in accountability

**genesis 4:9**

And the Lord said unto Cain, 'Where is your brother Abel?'

And he said, 'I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?'"

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# finding meaningful friendship

1: don't isolate yourself

**proverbs 18:1**

He that separates himself seeks his own  
desire;

he breaks out against all sound wisdom.

# finding meaningful friendship

2: be a friend

**proverbs 18:24**

A man that has friends must show himself friendly:  
and there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother.



# finding meaningful friendship

3: love in deed, not just words

**1 john 3:18**

Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.