



FOOLPROOF

THE WISDOM OF PROVERBS

CONNECT

Who was your best friend in school? What made them so special?

WORD

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

Proverbs 17:17

One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Proverbs 18:24

THOUGHT

Friendship is fundamental to the second core value of Every Nation NYC: Growing Together. In New York City it's vital to cultivate deep, lasting relationships, whether it be at work or in a social setting. Even more crucial is the need for spiritual community.

Colossians 3:12-14 gives us a picture of what healthy spiritual community looks like:

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

These verses contain many characteristics of a good friendship, but let's focus on three key elements:

**WE EXIST TO HELP PEOPLE KNOW GOD, GROW TOGETHER,
DISCOVER PURPOSE, MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

THOUGHT CONTINUED...

1. Friends bear with one another - A good friend is there for you in both good times and bad. They walk with you through whatever you're facing and don't abandon you when life gets difficult. As Proverbs 18:24 reads, "There is a friend that sticks closer than a brother."
2. Friends forgive one another - We can only forgive others because we have received Christ's forgiveness through salvation. Psalm 103:12: "As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us."
3. Friends love one another - Everything really circles back to love. Only in love can you demonstrate joy, peace, patience, kindness, and all of the rest of the fruit of the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-25).

DISCUSSION

1. When choosing your friends, which qualities or characteristics do you look for? Read Matthew 7:16 and 1 Corinthians 15:33 . What do these verses mean to you?
2. Read Ruth 1:14. When things get tough in your life, are your friends kissers or clingers? How do you react when things get tough in a friend's life?
3. Do you think your relationships or friendships can determine your destiny? Who was the great, great, great grandmother of David? Who was the great, great, great grandmother of Goliath? Hint: The answer is in Question #2.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- Think of someone in your circle of influence you can show friendship to this week. If someone doesn't immediately come to mind, pray for the Holy Spirit to lead you to that individual.

PRAYER

- Are there successes in your life that you haven't attributed to God? Confess and proclaim God's goodness in your life to others.