

He Who Has Friends...
Ecc 4:9-12; Pro 18:24
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show what the Bible says about friendship.

- Intro:
1. Friends are quickly made in the internet world.
 2. Such should not be the case in the real world.
 3. True friendship is hard not find and is often uncommon.

I. Winning & Losing Friendships

A. Winning Friendships

1. Friendships have no superficial restrictions.
 - a. Age
 - b. Income
 - c. Education
2. How do you treat friends?
 - a. As you wish to be treated (**Lk 6:31**)
 - b. Love them (**Pro 17:17**)

B. Losing Friendships

1. One loses friends when he is not there when they fall (**Ecc 4:10b**)
2. When you become bad company you become a bad friend and you should expect your friendships to decrease (**1 Cor 15:33**)
 - a. The Bible encourages us to leave from the presence of such people (**Pro 14:7**)

II. Friendships - Quality or Quantity?

A. What are quality friendships?

1. Choose quality friends (**Pro 12:26**)
2. Choose those who are a help in life, not a hindrance (**Pro 17:17**).
 - a. Choose one who will not only encourage you but will rebuke you when needed.
 - b. Quality friends offer three basic things:
 - i. Aide & Support (**Ecc 4:10a**)
 - ii. Comfort of companionship (**Ecc 4:11**)
 - iii. Protection in dangerous times (**Ecc 4:12**)
 1. A cord of three strands was the strongest in the ancient world.

B. Are the number of your friends just as important?

1. For many of the wealthy in this world friendship comes easily.
2. Quantity of friends does not make up for the quality of friends.

III. Lessons for us today.

A. When to not expect friendship.

1. When one is unfriendly (**Pro 18:24a**)
 - a. Unfriendliness is treating others in ways they do not deserve. (**Lk 6:31**)
2. When one takes advantage of those who desire friendship.

B. When friendship can come exist.

1. When one behaves in a friendly way.
 - a. Kindness, respect, and fair treatment.
2. Such friendship results in closeness and caring, the opposite of what some desire.

Application & Conclusion:

1. Friendship is something that should not be taken lightly.
2. Not everyone is friendship “material” but Christians should be.
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9