

Summary Page: "Dear Friends..."

**Proverbs 22:11** "He who loves a pure heart and whose speech is gracious, will have the king for his friend."

1)" He who loves a pure heart and whose speech is gracious" this passage is about the untamed, unkind, unwise, undisciplined, unreasonable, and the unfaithful tongue of fools. Solomon is admonishing the wisdom of controlling one's words. People must learn to think before they speak. A kind word gives encouragement and relieves anxiety. Leads others to knowledge (15:2,7) and healing in relationships (15:1, 4)

2) "will have the king for a friend." **DJB 830 Read The King's Heart** top of the page. (Hannah)

**Proverbs 12:26** "A righteous man is cautious in friendships, but the way of the wicked leads them astray. " Dangers come with endless chatter and an unbridled tongue. (10:19, 14:23)

**Proverbs 18:24** "A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother." A person with one true friend is better than many unreliable friends.

**Proverbs 22:24-25** "Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered, or you may learn his ways and become ensnared." Bad company corrupts good character.

**Proverbs 17:9** "He who covers over an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends." To cover an offense means to promote forgiveness, foster love.

**Proverbs 27:9** "Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of one's friend springs from his earnest counsel." " heartfelt advice."

**Proverbs 17:17** "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity." Relationships built on love and fidelity are a rare treasure. True friends are faithful in difficult/trying times.

**Proverbs 27:17** "As iron sharpens iron so one man sharpens another." Iron against iron improves quality of both. Wisdom is neither acquired nor maintained in isolation. It is mutually beneficial.

**Proverbs 10:12** "Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers over all wrongs."

**Proverbs 24:26** "An honest answer is like a kiss on the lips." Speaking the kind of truth that enables growth and development honors a relationship. Brings people closer, builds relations.

**Proverbs 15:17** "Better a meal of vegetables' where there is love than a fattened calf with hatred." Speech can be destructive when used recklessly or harshly (15:1)

**Proverbs 16:13** "Kings take pleasure in honest lips; they value the one who speaks the truth." As opposed to flattering lips.

**Proverbs 20:6** "Many claim to have unfailing love, but a faithful person who can find?" "God made mankind upright, but mankind has gone in search of many schemes." **Ecclesiastes 7:29**

**Proverbs 3:28** "Do not say to your neighbor, "Come back tomorrow and I'll give it to you"-when you already have it with you." "I will pray for you", both are unloving and dishonest if not done.

**Proverbs 11:12** "Whoever derides their neighbor lacks judgement, but the one who has understanding holds their tongue." "Derides their neighbor" Shows their contempt openly.

### Lesson 3

### "Dear Friends..."

Memory Verse: Proverbs 22:11 "He who loves a pure heart and whose speech is gracious will have the king for his friend."

What **warning** (information to help us know right from wrong) did God show us?

We are to be careful who we \_\_\_\_\_ our heart to in a \_\_\_\_\_ friendship. Proverbs: 12:26 be cautious 18:24 only a few are \_\_\_\_\_ for us 22:24-25 avoid \_\_\_\_\_ people

What **instructions** (actions we should take) did God give to us? Proverbs:

17:9 be joyful and \_\_\_\_\_ 27:9 talk heart to \_\_\_\_\_ 17:17 \_\_\_\_\_ at all times.

What **benefits** (the results of choosing wisely) did God tell us about? Proverbs:

27:17 we sharpen one \_\_\_\_\_ 10:12 we \_\_\_\_\_ one another 24:26 are honest 15:17 \_\_\_\_\_ one another 16:13 speak the \_\_\_\_\_ to one another 20:6 are \_\_\_\_\_

What are the **consequences** (results) for not choosing God's wisdom? Proverbs:

3:28 withhold \_\_\_\_\_ 11:12 use \_\_\_\_\_ 22:24 angry \_\_\_\_\_ 25:8-9 \_\_\_\_\_ others 26:18-19 ridicule/divide others 29:5 use insincere \_\_\_\_\_ to get what we want

What **warning** or **instruction** from God will you pray about for change?

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Which **benefit** or **consequences** will you do differently this week?

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### Word Study:

- 1) **Acquaintance:** a person known to you but not a close friend.
- 2) **Adversity:** distress, difficulty, hardship or disaster that comes to you or others.
- 3) **Complain:** to tell of pain or grief, to disagree, find fault or accuse another.
- 4) **Earnest:** serious in purpose, effort, intention, to have sincere feelings.
- 5) **Endurance:** to bear hardship or pain, to have strength to continue under stress or pressure.
- 6) **Manipulator:** to influence unfairly, control others, take unfair advantage for oneself or one's benefit over someone else.
- 7) **Mentor:** a wise and trusted counselor or teacher, a guide or coach.

Friendship comes in many different looks. Some come with **BIG** hearts. Some bring a lot of fun and laughter, others a shoulder to cry on. Some pray for you when you need healing, others bring chicken soup when you are ill. Another will listen to you **complain** while another will speak the truth, even if it hurts. But all healthy and true friendships are a gift from God. We all want to have close friends but we also want to become a better friend to others as well. Most important we want to have a relationship with God as our best friend forever, our BFF!

Name some of the things you look for in a friend:

\_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_

A few close friends are better than a large number of **acquaintances**, and are very special from others in our life. Acquaintances are often a person we enjoy in a social way. Someone we enjoy in a "head to head" relationship but not in a "heart" relationship. They are not really someone we share our heart with as in a close friendship. They might be a **mentor**, a teacher, come from the same country or belong to a group we belong to such as PTA, ESL class, etc.

The New Testament  
friendship as a tender  
heart is freely given. It  
the other in the heart.  
to be doing something  
Write friend's names



describes a close  
relationship where the  
has the best interest of  
We don't always need  
to enjoy each other.  
on the fingers.

Proverbs is clear as to what we should look for in a close friendship and we need to be careful who we trust our heart with!

Proverbs 12:26a How are we to choose our friends? \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 17:9a Why is forgiveness important among friends? \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 18:24b Is choosing our friend like choosing an acquaintance? \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 22:24-25 What should we be careful of? \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 27:6a How is a friend different from a *manipulator*? \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 27:9b Why is *earnest* counsel important in a true friend? \_\_\_\_\_

Because “dear friends” are close in our heart as Jesus’ friends were to Him these Proverbs help us make wise decisions about our friendships. There is an old saying “He who lies down with dogs gets up with fleas.”

The friend we want and want to be is mentioned in Proverbs 27:17 “As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another” As women we want to be a sharper parent, we want to be spiritually sharper. A sharper wife. I want my friends to sharpen me and I want to sharpen them.

How do we “dull” one another? We are not supportive of what’s best for each other. Don’t make me love my husband or children less. Don’t encourage me to skip church or Bible Study or not want to serve the Lord. Do you have friends that are critical of your husband? Your children? Your faith?

**Endurance** is also important in a close friendship. Proverbs 17:17 makes that clear. Let’s read it. A family member is there in your *adversity*. But a friend *loves at all times*.

Why is this important? A family member we must put up with but a friend we don’t have to put up with! Another meaning for “at all times” in the Strong Dictionary is now and when. We don’t have to “need” or always “depend” on a friend but instead *I want you as my friend*. It doesn’t matter if you are lovable or not. I will love you even when I don’t feel like doing so. I will it until I do feel like doing so. I want the best for you and won’t give up over circumstance.

In the story of David and Jonathan in 1 Samuel 18:1 it says “...Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself.” Their souls were knit together, joined closely and firmly, as in broken bones.

Author Matthew Henry describes their friendship in this way. “The friendship of David and Jonathan was the effect of Divine grace, which produces (makes) in true believers one heart and one soul and causes them to love each other. This union (bringing together) of souls is from partaking (taking) in the Spirit of Christ. Where God unites hearts, carnal (evil, worldly) matters are too weak to separate them.”

***I want to be that kind of friend. And I want to have that kind of friend.***

A friendship formed in the Spirit of Christ and bound in the love of God. These are the friendships of endurance even during trying times in the relationship. Pray for God to bring you that kind of relationship, and be that kind of friend.

When I look in the mirror I see wrinkles, green eyes, sun-damaged skin. What do you see? I add make-up and lipstick to cover these and make me look at least better to the world. How about you? What do you do to look better?

Inside I might still have an ugly attitude of bitterness and hurt feelings. I may look pretty good outside but what about inside. This beauty inside will affect my friendships with others. Maybe a little *spiritual* makeover might help. The following proverbs tell us about weaknesses we may share.

Proverbs 3:28	withholding of help	Proverbs 22:24	anger
Proverbs 29:5	insincere flattery	Proverbs 25:8-9	betrayal
Proverbs 26:18-19	ridicule/ division	Proverbs 11:12	sarcasm

Did you find something you might be guilty of? I know I might flatter people, so that I will gain something I want or need. Sarcasm I have used when I wanted to hurt someone and then said “Oh, I was just joking.” I have struggled with anger from time to time and sometimes spilled it upon those I loved the most. Have any of you ever done these things? God can cure these.

Apply these qualities of friendship to yourself. Place an X by the ones you have. Circle the ones you want to improve on with God’s help.

☐ kind   ☐ funny   ☐ compassionate   ☐ integrity   ☐ loving   ☐ loyal  
☐ honest   ☐ thoughtful   ☐ helpful   ☐ faithful   ☐ forgiving   ☐ caring