



Part 6 – Friends-R-Us
Proverbs

Pastor Mark Hartman
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I. FRIENDSHIPS **MATTER** IN GOD’S PLAN FOR OUR LIVES.

- A. *Proverbs 18:24 A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who **sticks** closer than a brother.*
- B. *Proverbs 17:10 “Do not forsake your own friend... nor go to your brother’s house in the day of your calamity. Better is a friend **nearby** than a brother far away.”*
- C. *John 17:20-21 “My prayer is not for them (disciples) alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message (all of us), ²¹ that all of them may be ONE, Father, just as You are in Me and I am in You. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. (NIV)*
- D. The heart of Christianity, community and “one another”, is in **small groups**.
- E. Explore more information about some small group options by going to the **Group Link** kiosk today in the Commons.
- F. Real friends ARE the end. You know and enjoy them **just** for themselves.

II. WHAT **GOOD** FRIENDSHIPS DO.

- A. Good friendships help you stay on the right **path**.
 - 1. *Proverbs 13:20 “Become wise by walking with the wise; hang out with fools and watch your life fall to pieces. (MSG)*

2. "If you want to see what your life will look like 5 years from now, look at the books you're reading and the people you are hanging around." (Anonymous)
3. *Proverbs 13:20 "Become wise by walking with the wise; hang out with fools and watch your life fall to pieces." (MSG)*

B. Friends **tell** us what others won't.

1. *Proverbs 27:5-6 "Better is open rebuke than love that is concealed. Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but deceitful are the kisses of an enemy."*
2. *Hebrews 3:13 "But exhort one another every day... that none of you may be **hardened** by the deceitfulness of sin."*
3. *Proverbs 24:26 "An honest answer is the sign of a true friendship."*

C. Friends take care of us **when** life is falling apart.

1. *Proverbs 18:24 "A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."*
2. *Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 "Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble." (NLT)*
3. "When you go through pain, it's not theological reasoning you most need, it's the slightest touch of human sympathy." (C.S. Lewis)

III. HOW TO BE A GOOD FRIEND.

A. Decide to **be** the right kind of person.

*Proverbs 17:17 "A friend loves at **all** times..."*

B. Decide to **find** the right kind of person.

*Proverbs 27:19 "A mirror reflects a man's face. But what he is **really** like is shown by the friends he chooses."*

C. Take the **initiative**.

1. *Proverbs 18:24 "A person who has friends must show himself friendly."*
2. *Luke 6:38 "Give and it will be given to you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, they will pour into your lap. For whatever measure you give, it will be given back to you."*

