

Proverbs: Wisdom and Friendship

1. Select friends carefully.

- 14:20 The poor are shunned even by their neighbours, but the rich have many friends.
- 19:6 Many curry favour with a ruler, and everyone is the friend of a man who gives gifts.
- 19:4 Wealth brings many friends, but a poor man's friend deserts him.
- 12:26 A righteous man is cautious in friendship, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.
- 13:20 He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.
- 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 get yourself ensnared.
- 25:16-17 If you find honey, eat just enough--too much of it, and you will vomit. Seldom set foot in your neighbour's house--too much of you, and he will hate you.
- 18:24 A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

2. Speak to friends kindly.

- 29:5 Whoever flatters his neighbour is spreading a net for his feet.
- 27:5-6 Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.
- 27:9 Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of one's friend springs from his earnest counsel.
- 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.
- 28:23 He who rebukes a man will in the end gain more favour than he who has a flattering tongue.
- 17:9 He who covers over an offence promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.
- 16:28 A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends.
- 26:18-19 Like a madman shooting firebrands or deadly arrows is a man who deceives his neighbour and says, "I was only joking!"
- 27:14 If a man loudly blesses his neighbour early in the morning, it will be taken as a curse.
- 25:20 Like one who takes away a garment on a cold day, or like vinegar poured on soda, is one who sings songs to a heavy heart.

3. Stick with friends closely.

- 17:17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.
- 21:10 The wicked man craves evil; his neighbour gets no mercy from him.

4. Secure friendship with Jesus.