# ETERNAL WISDOM FOR EVERY DAY LIFE A THEMATIC STUDY OF PROVERBS # 5: WISDOM AND FRIENDS JIM HINTON

TRUE FRIENDSHIP: Walking into a persons house and your WiFi connects automatically.

Unknown

Personally, I am very fond of strawberries and cream, but I have found that for some strange reason, fish prefer worms. So when I went fishing, I didn't think about what I wanted. I thought about what they wanted. I didn't bait the hook with strawberries and cream. Rather, I dangled a worm or grasshopper in front of the fish and said: "Wouldn't you like to have that?" Why not use the same common sense when fishing for people?

Dale Carnegie, How to Win Friends and Influence People

# . WHY ARE FRIENDS IMPORTANT?

#### 1. Friends are an innate human need

The Lord God said, "It isn't good for the man to live alone. I need to make a suitable partner for him."

Genesis 2:18 (CEV)

# 2. Friends give necessary comfort

A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need.

Proverbs 17:17 (NLT)

#### 3. Friends provide essential encouragement

Just as lotions and fragrance give sensual delight, a sweet friendship refreshes the soul.

Proverbs 27:9 (TMSG)

## 4. Friends have tremendous influence on my life

The righteous person is a guide to his friend, but the path of the wicked leads them astray.

Proverbs 12:26 (TEV)

Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV)

# II. WHO ARE SOME "FRIENDS" I SHOULD AVOID?

Crocodiles are easy. They try to kill and eat you. People are harder. Sometimes they pretend to be your friend first.

**Steve Irwin** 

# People who are...

# 1. Superficial takers

Wealth makes many "friends"; poverty drives them all away. A false witness will not go unpunished, nor will a liar escape. Many seek favors from a ruler; everyone is the friend of a person who gives gifts! The relatives of the poor despise them; how much more will their friends avoid them! Though the poor plead with them, their friends are gone.

Proverbs 19:4-7 (NLT)

# 2. Short tempered

Do not be a friend of one who has a bad temper, and never keep company with a hothead, or you will learn his ways and set a trap for yourself.

Proverbs 22:24-25 (GOD'S WORD)

# 3. Gossipers

A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid a man who talks too much.

Proverbs 20:19 (NIV)

#### 4. Out of control

Don't drink too much wine or eat too much food. Those who drink and eat too much become poor. They sleep too much and end up wearing rags…Learn the truth and never reject it. Get wisdom, self-control, and understanding.

Proverbs 23:20,21,23 (NCV)

## 5. Troublemakers

My child, respect the LORD and the king. Don't join those people who refuse to obey them. The LORD and the king will quickly destroy such people. Those two can cause great disaster!

Proverbs 24:21-22

# 6. Untrustworthy

Telling lies about others is as harmful as hitting them with an ax, wounding them with a sword, or shooting them with a sharp arrow. Putting confidence in an unreliable person in times of trouble is like chewing with a broken tooth or walking on a lame foot. Singing cheerful songs to a person with a heavy heart is like taking someone's coat in cold weather or pouring vinegar in a wound.

Proverbs 25:18-20 (NLT)

## 7. Heartless (See Proverbs 1:10-19)

Don't envy violent men. Don't copy their ways. For such men are an abomination to the Lord, but he gives his friendship to the godly.

Proverbs 3:31-32 (TLB)

# III. WHAT ARE THE QUALITIES OF TRUE FRIENDS?

Some "Dos" and "Don'ts" regarding the kind of friend I should be and pursue...

#### 1. Do...

#### Live with wisdom

Walk with the wise and become wise; associate with fools and get in trouble.

Proverbs 13:20 (NLT)

# Demonstrate loyalty

Some friends may ruin you, but a real friend will be more loyal than a brother.

Proverbs 18:24 (NCV)

# • Exhibit forgiveness.

Hatred stirs up trouble; love overlooks the wrongs that others do.

Proverbs 10:12 (CEV)

Sensible people control their temper; they earn respect by overlooking wrongs.

Proverbs 19:11 (NLT)

# Keep confidences

In the heat of an argument, don't betray confidences; Word is sure to get around, and no one will trust you.

Proverbs 25:9-10 (TMSG)

# Have integrity

Gentle words are a tree of life; a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.

Proverbs 15:4 (NLT)

# Encourage others

Just as iron sharpens iron, friends sharpen the minds of each other.

Proverbs 27:17 (CEV)

#### Cultivate tact and consideration

A truly good friend will openly correct you. You can trust a friend who corrects you, but kisses from an enemy are nothing but lies.

Proverbs 27:5-6 (CEV)

# • Be kind

If your enemies are hungry, give them food to eat. If they are thirsty, give them water to drink. You will heap burning coals of shame on their heads, and the LORD will reward you.

Proverbs 25:21-22 (NLT)

## 2. Don't...

# Make a pest of themselves

Don't visit your neighbors too often, or you will wear out your welcome.

Proverbs 25:17 (NLT)

# Use inappropriate or hurtful humor

Like a madman who shoots flaming arrows, arrows, and death, so is the person who tricks his neighbor and says, "I was only joking!"

Proverbs 26:18-19 (GOD'S WORD)

# • Have a contentious spirit

Just as charcoal and wood keep a fire going, a quarrelsome person keeps an argument going.

Proverbs 26:21 (NCV)

# Interfere with other people's business

Getting involved in an argument that is none of your business is like going down the street and grabbing a dog by the ears.

Proverbs 26:17 (TEV)