

Some concluding reflections...

1) Seek the friendship of God in Christ (18:24)

2) Seek to avoid fairweather friendship (19:4)

3) Seek to pursue Christlike friendships (17:17, 27:6, 27:9)

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For discussion or for personal reflection...

1. What steps can you take to increase the honesty in your friendships?
2. When do you think it's right to pull out of a friendship? And how?
3. How do you "stick" with friends when busyness and geography takes you apart?
4. How would you go about sharing a concern about a friend with them? How do you make sure you are doing this in the right way?
5. Can you think of particular kinds of people in the church who might need help with friendship? How can you support them?

Book Recommendations:

- **True Friendship** (Walking Shoulder to Shoulder) by Vaughan Roberts. 94 pages £2.49. Crucial, close, constant, candid, careful, Christ-centred.
- **The Way of Wisdom** (God's wisdom for navigating life)- Tim & Kathy Keller (A year of devotions from the Proverbs)- 440 pages £9.12.

CCH Evening Service 05DEC21 Friendship & Proverbs

"One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother". Proverbs 18:24

Q- jot down the initials of your closest friends...

A brief word or three about Proverbs...

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Have a ponder about what the following Proverbs teach about ...

- ...choosing friends (12:26, 18:24, 22:24)
- ...friendship and finance (14:20, 19:4,6,7, 22:11)
- ... good friendships (27:6, 27:9, 18:24)

The Friend in Proverbs (NIV)

1. Proverbs 12:26

The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

2. Proverbs 14:20

The poor are shunned even by their neighbours, but the rich have many friends.

3. Proverbs 16:28

A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends.

4. Proverbs 17:9

Whoever would foster love covers over an offence, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.

5. Proverbs 17:17

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.

6. Proverbs 18:24

One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

7. Proverbs 19:4

Wealth attracts many friends, but even the closest friend of the poor person deserts them.

8. Proverbs 19:6

Many curry favour with a ruler, and everyone is the friend of one who gives gifts.

9. Proverbs 19:7

The poor are shunned by all their relatives – how much more do their friends avoid them! Though the poor pursue them with pleading, they are nowhere to be found.

10. Proverbs 22:11

One who loves a pure heart and who speaks with grace will have the king for a friend.

11. Proverbs 22:24

Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered,

12. Proverbs 27:6a

Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

13. Proverbs 27:9

Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice.

14. Proverbs 27:10

Do not forsake your friend or a friend of your family, and do not go to your relative's house when disaster strikes you – better a neighbour nearby than a relative far away.