

**Creating and Cultivating Godly Friendships
Relationships that Work
Romans 15:1-7
2-20-22**

I. Dilemmas in Godly Friendships

1. Lack of risks.

1 Samuel 18:1 – *"As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul."*

2. Lack of transparency.

James 5:16 – *"Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."*

3. Lack of investing time.

Proverbs 27:17 – *"Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another."*

1 Thessalonians 2:8 – *"So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us."*

II. Characteristics of a Godly Friend

1. Trustworthy.

Proverbs 11:13 – *"Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a thing covered."*

Proverbs 20:19 – *"Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets; therefore do not associate with a simple babbler."*

Proverbs 25:19-20 – *"Trusting in a treacherous man in time of trouble is like a bad tooth or a foot that slips. Whoever sings songs to a heavy heart is like one who takes off a garment on a cold day, and like vinegar on soda."*

2. A Guide.

Proverbs 12:26 – *"One who is righteous is a guide to his neighbor, but the way of the wicked leads them astray."*

Proverbs 27:5-6 – *"Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy."*

3. Forgiving.

Proverbs 17:9 – *"Whoever covers an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends."*

4. Few and far between.

Proverbs 18:24 – *"A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."*

5. Not driven by wealth.

Proverbs 19:4 – *"Wealth brings many new friends, but a poor man is deserted by his friend."*

6. Generous.

Proverbs 23:6-8 – *"Do not eat the bread of a man who is stingy; do not desire his delicacies, for he is like one who is inwardly calculating. 'Eat and drink!' he says to you, but his heart is not with you. You will vomit up the morsels that you have eaten and waste your pleasant words."*

7. Bears Burdens.

Galatians 6:2 – *"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."*

8. Loving and Gracious.

Proverbs 22:24-25 – *"Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man, lest you learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare."*

Job 6:14 – *"He who withholds kindness from a friend forsakes the fear of the Almighty."*

Proverbs 17:17 – *"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity."*

John 13:34-35 – *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

John 15:13 – *"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."*

Romans 5:8 – *"but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

Growing Deeper This Week

1. Read Romans 15:1-7 together with a group or friend. Pray for understanding in how we view relationships.
2. How do you choose your friends? What do you teach your kids/family/friends to look for in a friend?
3. Can you relate to the dilemmas of Godly friendship? How so? What might you need to change to overcome these areas?
5. What characteristics of a Godly friend do you demonstrate easily? What is an area you need to grow?
6. Do you view Christ more as a friend or a judge? (John 15:15)