

The Friend Selected Proverbs

Tim Keller: **“If this world was made by a triune God, a being of community, then relationships of love are what life is really all about.”**

Peace be to you. The friends greet you. Greet the friends, everyone of them.

3 John 15

#1: The Value of Friendships

“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity” (17:17).

“A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother” (18:24).

“Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another, “What! You, too? I thought I was the only one.”
(C.S. Lewis)

“Real friends always let you in, and never let you down.”
(Tim Keller)

“Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another” (27:17)

#2: The Qualities of A Good Friend

A. Consistency

“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity” (17:17)

B. Candor

“Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of the enemy.” (Prov. 27:6)

C. Counsel

“Oil and perfume make the heart glad, and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel.” (Prov. 27:9)

D. Compassion

“A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends.” (16:28)

“Whoever covers an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends.” (17:9)

“Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses” (10:12)

“Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling” (1 Pet 4:8-9).

“Love bears all things, believing all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” (13:7).

#3: The Qualities of a Good Neighbor

A. Kindness

“Those whose speech is gracious and heart is pure will have the king as a friend.” (22:11)

“Anxiety in a man’s heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad.” (12:25)

B. Sensitivity

“Whoever blesses his neighbor with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, will be counted as a cursing.” (27:14)

“Like a madman who throws firebrand arrow, arrows, and death is the man who deceives his neighbor and says, ‘I am only joking’” (26:18-19).

“Let your foot be seldom in your neighbor’s house, lest he have his fill of you and hate you” (25:17)

“Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it. Do not say to your neighbor, ‘Go, and come again, tomorrow I will give it’ – when you have it with you. Do not plan evil against your neighbor, who dwells trustingly beside you.” (3:27-29)

“Whoever belittles his neighbor lacks sense, but a man of understanding remains silent (11:2).

“The poor is disliked even by his neighbor [friend], but the rich has many friends. Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner, but blessed is he who is generous to the poor” (14:20-21)

“The soul of the wicked desires evil;
his neighbor finds no mercy in his eyes”

21:10

#4: The Friend of Sinners (John 15:12-15)

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.”
(John 15:12-15)

“One there is, above all others”

**1 One there is, above all others,
Well deserves the name of Friend;
His is love beyond a brother's,
Costly, free, and knows no end:
They who once his kindness prove
Find it everlasting love.**

**2 Which of all our friends, to save us,
Could or would have shed his blood?
But our Jesus died to have us
Reconciled in him to God.
This was boundless love indeed;
Jesus is a Friend in need.**

**3 When he lived on earth abased,
"Friend of sinners" was his name,
Now above all glory raised,
He rejoices in the same;
Still he calls them brethren, friends,
And to all their wants attends.**

4 Could we bear from one another
What he daily bears from us?
Yet this glorious Friend and Brother
Loves us though we treat him thus:
Though for good we render ill,
He accounts us brethren still.

5 O for grace our hearts to soften!
Teach us, Lord, at length to love,
We, alas! forget too often
What a Friend we have above.
But when home our souls are brought,
We will love you as we ought.