



**All Citizens Christian Church Calgary**

**Bible Study:** Thursday, December 19 2013.

**Topic: WISDOM IN FRIENDSHIP**

**TEXT: John 15:13-15**

**INTRODUCTION** Recently we began to talk about relationships in the church. We discussed certain things about friends and lately we began to talk about husbands and wives. Today we want to consider relationship in another perspective. That is in the area of friends and wisdom. As social creatures living on an inhabited planet, it is impossible to avoid associations with fellow human beings. As Christians, it is important that our dealings with other people be conducted in wisdom. As Paul wrote to the Colossians in **Col 4:5-6**

In His all-sufficient Word, God has provided the wisdom necessary whereby we can develop good relations with those around us, and avoid the pitfalls that too often destroy good friendships. A good portion of this "wisdom" is found in "**The Book of Proverbs**"

**A. A FRIEND IS SOMEONE WHO CAN BE A SOURCE OF COMFORT**

1. In good times and in bad times - **Prov 17:17, Job 16: 1-4**
2. A true friend the Bible says is better than a brother - **Prov 18:24b**

**B. A FRIEND IS SOMEONE WHO CAN BE A SOURCE OF GOOD COUNSEL.**

1. Counsel that can "delight the heart" - **Prov 27:9, 17**
2. The value of counsel in general is seen in **Prov 11:14, Prov 15: 22. Prov 20: 5**

**II.THE SELECTION OF FRIENDS**

**A. PEOPLE YOU DO NOT WANT AS FRIENDS**

1. Gossips - **Prov 20:19, Prov 11: 13.**
2. Short-tempered - **Prov 22:24-25**
3. Those given to drinking and gluttony - **Prov 23:20-21**
4. Liars, those untrustworthy, and those inconsiderate - **Prov 25:18-20**
5. Those given to violence - **Prov 1:10-19**
6. People who do not believe in the same things or Principles as you. **2 Cor 6:14, Amos 3: 3,** (There is an adage that says show me your friend and I will tell you who you are).
7. Evil company.

**B. THE SORT OF FRIENDS YOU WANT.**

1. Those who display wisdom themselves - **Prov 13:20**
2. People that will lead you in the right way -. **Prov 13:14**
3. People who can correct and encourage you in love **Prov 27: 17**

**III. HOW TO MAINTAIN GOOD FRIENDSHIPS**

**A. THINGS THAT CAN DISRUPT A GOOD FRIENDSHIP...**

1. Don't repeat issues that separate you - **Prov 17:9**

2. Avoid senseless arguments - **Prov 17:14**
3. Don't overstay your welcome - **Prov 25:17**
4. Don't meddle in affairs which you are not invited into. **Prov 26:17**
5. Don't play bad jokes - **Prov 26:18-19, Eph 5: 4**
6. Don't be a "talebearer" - **Prov 26:20, Prov 20: 3, 2 Thess 3:11**
7. Don't be contentious - **Prov 26:21, Lu 22:24, Acts 15: 38-39**
8. Don't engage in insincere flattery - **Prov 27:14**
9. Believe in your friend and what he or she says.
10. Give him or her an opportunity to err.
11. Never pressurize your friend into a tight corner.
12. Be there for them **Psalms 38:11, 31: 11**

## **B. SOLVING PROBLEMS WITH OUR FRIENDS...**

1. Make sure that you are at peace with the Lord - **Prov 16:7**
2. Be slow to anger - **Prov 15:18; Ja 1:19-20**
3. Be slow to respond - **Prov 18:13**
4. Avoid quarreling - **Prov 20:3**
5. Do not speak with anger - **Prov 15:1, Prov 25: 15**
6. Do not speak too many words - **Prov 10:19**
7. Be quick to show love - **Prov 10:12**
8. But if necessary, rebuke rather than flatter - **Prov 28:23**
9. Speak with caution and understanding and let your aim be to preserve the friendship

## **CONCLUSION**

If we properly apply the wisdom found in God's word, we will enjoy the blessings of good friends in this life, and can look forward to enjoying these dear friends in life eternal. Rather than depend upon "trial and error" to learn "how to win friends and influence people", let God's Word be your guide. But of all the friendships we could possibly develop, none can be more than the one we can have with HIM who truly "sticks closer than a brother" – our Lord Jesus Christ!

Have you become His friend? Consider what He has done for us. ( **"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."** (Jn 15:13))

Consider what He asks of us. **"You are My friends if you do whatever I command you."** (Jn 15:14) Have you done what He commands? - cf. **Mt 28:18-20; Mk 16:15-16**