

Studies in the Book of Proverbs by [John T Polk II](#)
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

(#127) The Proverbs of Solomon 17:17- How To Choose A Friend

Since God Created humans, only God can provide specific understanding of human behavior. God gave Solomon Divine Wisdom (**1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10**) to explain what and why behavior is as it is, and **Proverbs 10:1 - 24:34** are randomly written, as if they were Judgments Solomon made about individual cases brought to him for Divine Wisdom (**1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10**), or simply God-given explanations about life. New Testament passages may help see the continuation of Wisdom offered through Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 17:17:

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

Genuine friendship doesn't waver. "A friend" will always be there for you and will not abandon you when your money, fancy clothes, expensive gifts, or other "freebies" have run out! Anyone who leaves you when you are in hard times never was your friend to start with!

Those who make a big show of being your friend are getting ready to renounce your friendship or to take unfair advantage of your friendship! A sage quote says: *Too many of the footprints on the sands of time were made by heels.* True, friends are made when we are friendly. Proverbs bear this out:

- He who blesses his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, it will be counted a curse to him. (**Proverbs 27:14**)
- A man *who has* friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend *who* sticks closer than a brother. (**Proverbs 18:24**)

We must be "a friend" to expect to have friends! A true friend:

- i. "Loves at all times," under all circumstances, regardless of our frailties;
- ii. NEVER will use our friendship for his/her own selfish purposes or advantages;
- iii. Always tells us what we need to know for our own good. Jesus made this clear when He described His friendship with His disciples:
"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you." (**John 15:13-15**)



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- iv. Sticks closer and is quicker to help than even blood relatives! Often “friends of the family” began with our parents, and we should respect and keep them, in addition to our own.
Ointment and perfume delight the heart, and the sweetness of a man's friend gives delight by hearty counsel. Do not forsake your own friend or your father's friend, nor go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity; better is a neighbor nearby than a brother far away. ([Proverbs 27:9-10](#))

- v. Will be shared with other friends, as John indicated: “Peace to you. Our friends greet you. Greet the friends by name” ([3 John 14](#)).

Are you a “friend of God,” as Abraham was by his faith and works ([James 2:21-24](#)), and by our obeying God’s works today ([Mark 16:16](#))?

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