

Biblical Friendship

1. **Friends with God first** – friend that sticks closer than a brother - prov 18:24b

Enoch walked with God - - -

Adam walked with God, crossed His boundary and then hid, Gen 3:8

Abraham had a covenant relationship -

I no longer call you servants, but friends - John 15:15

2. **Outer circle friends** (acquaintances) -

Jesus hung out with “publicans and sinners” Luke 15:2,

Drunkards, prostitutes Luke 7:34

Searching out friends – if you want one, be one! proverbs – prov 18:24a

To “befriend” is to find interest, common ground, discover who they are, what they like, etc

Community of a group – Acts 2:42-47 / 3rd John vs 15

3. **Close friendships** – amos 3:3 – can’t walk together if we are not agreed

Choose qualities of people you want to emulate – prov 13:20

(show me you 5 closest friends, Ill show you your future)

Healthy boundaries, mutual respect – Gal. 6:2 and 6:5 (burden = load you can or should carry)

Johnathon and David (loyalty) Elijah and Elisha

Telling them truth? Faithful are the wounds of a friend - prov 27:6

Affirm positive qualities in your friend – prov 27:9

Speak the truth in love – Eph 4:15, until we mature

Offending them? Insulting me, rising against me? You were my companion, and close friend, one whom we shared fellowship in the house of God. Psalm 55:12-14

4. **Severing friendships** – come out and be separate...2 cor. 6:17

James 4:4 – don't be friends with the world

- a. Ones that interfere with your faith (Jobs friends)
- b. People who don't share your core values (drinking, smoking, cursing, dirty jokes)
- c. Clingy, needy – walking wounded...
- d. Controlling –
- e. Paul and Barnabas, John and Diotrephes, Alexander the coppersmith,