

THE LOVE OF A FRIEND

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Woodland Church

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(John 15:13, NKJV) Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

“Often the most loving thing we can do when a friend is in pain is to share the pain – to be there even when we have nothing to offer except our presence and even when being there is painful to ourselves.” -M. Scott Peck

(Matthew 7:12, NLT) “Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.

A friend is someone who...

1. Has time for you.

(Proverbs 18:24, NKJV) A man who has friends must himself be friendly.

2. Has your best interests at heart.

(Philippians 2:4, PT) Abandon every display of selfishness. Possess a greater concern for what matters to others instead of your own interests.

3. You can trust.

(Proverbs 20:6, LB) Most people will tell you what loyal friends they are, but are they telling the truth?

I can trust someone who is...

- a. Reliable

(Proverbs 17:17, NCV) A friend loves you all the time...

b. Loyal

(Proverbs 18:24, NCV) Some friends may ruin you, but a real friend will be more loyal than a brother.

(1 Corinthians 13:7, LB) If you love someone, you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him, always expect the best of him, and always stand your ground in defending him.

c. Confidential

(Proverbs 11:13, PT) You can't trust gossipers with a secret; they'll just go blab it all. Put your confidence instead in a trusted friend, for he will be faithful to keep it in confidence.

4. Celebrates my successes and grieves my losses.

(Romans 12:15, PT) Celebrate with those who celebrate, and weep with those who grieve.

5. Will help me become a better person.

(Proverbs 27:17, NLT) As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.

“So many people have helped me to come to this night. Some of you are here. Some are far away. Some are even in heaven. All of us have special ones who have loved us into being. Would you just take, along with me, 20 seconds to think of the people who have helped you become who you are? Those who have cared about you and wanted what was best for you in life. 10 seconds of silence. I'll watch the time.

Whomever you've been thinking about, how pleased they must be to know the difference you feel they've made.”

- Mr. Rogers, excerpt from his Emmy lifetime achievement award speech

(Proverbs 17:9, PT) Love forgets mistakes; nagging about them parts the best of friends.