



FRIENDSHIP IN FORMATION GROUPS: WISDOM AND FRIENDSHIP (PROVERBS)



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Friendship in Formation Groups: Wisdom and Friendship

Scripture Readings

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

“Seldom set foot in your neighbour's house—too much of you, and he will hate you.” (**Prov 25:17**)

“Like one who takes away a garment on a cold day, or like vinegar poured on soda, is one who sings songs to a heavy heart.” (**Prov 25:20**)

“Like a madman shooting firebrands or deadly arrows is a man who deceives his neighbour and says, ‘I was only joking.’” (**Prov 26:18–19**)



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“Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.” (**Prov 27:5–6**)

“Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of one’s friend springs from his earnest counsel.” (**Prov 27:9**)

“If a man loudly blesses his neighbour early in the morning, it will be taken as a curse.” (**Prov 27:14**)

“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” (**Prov 27:17**)

“He who rebukes a man will in the end gain more favour than he who has a flattering tongue.” (**Prov 28:23**)

“Whoever flatters his neighbour is spreading a net for his feet.” (**Prov 29:5**)



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1. The uniqueness of friendship
2. The discovery of friendship
3. The forging of friendship
4. The power for friendship



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1. The Uniqueness of Friendship

C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*:

“Friendship is the least instinctive, organic, biological, the least necessary of all our loves... It has the least commerce with our physical system... If it were not for erotic love, none of us would have been begotten, and without affection, none of us would have been reared. But we can live without friends.”



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2. The Discovery of Friendship

- Companions
- Friendship begins with discovery
- You cannot force a friendship
- Those who have nothing can share nothing



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3. The Forging of Friendship

- 1. Constancy – “*A friend loves at all times.*” (**Prov 17:17**)
- 2. Carefulness – Emotional connection and sensitivity.
- 3. Candor – Truth-telling, even when painful.
- 4. Counsel – Honest, vulnerable advice.



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4. The Power for Friendship

Lewis again, in *The Four Loves*:

“Christ, who said to the disciples, ‘You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you,’ can also say to every group of Christian friends, ‘You have not chosen one another, but I have chosen you for one another.’ At the feast of friendship, it is God who has spread the board, and it is God who has chosen the guests.”