

Friends – Friendships

Purpose: To identify the descriptions of friends in both the old and new Testaments and especially those who were friends of Paul. This will help us to identify those who are truly our friends or who we should want to be friends with and those who we should distance ourselves.

Ecclesiastes 4:7-12 Then I returned, and I saw vanity under the sun. ⁸There is one *alone*, and *there is* not a second; yea, he hath neither child nor brother: yet *is there* no end of all his labour; neither is his eye satisfied with riches; neither *saith he*, For whom do I labour, and bereave my soul of good? This *is* also vanity, yea, it *is* a sore travail. ⁹**Two are better than one**, because they have a good reward for their labour. ¹⁰For if they fall, the one will lift up his **fellow**: but woe to him *that is* alone when he falleth; for *he hath* not another to help him up. ¹¹Again, if **two lie together**, then they have heat: but how can one be warm *alone*? ¹²And if one prevail against him, **two shall withstand him**; and a **threefold cord** is not quickly broken.

H7453 From H7462; an *associate* (more or less close):—brother, companion, **fellow, friend**, husband, lover, neighbor, X (an-) other.

H2270 - From H2266; an *associate*:—companion, **fellow**, knit together.

Prov 17:17 A **friend** loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Prov 18:24 A man *that hath* **friends** must show himself friendly: and there is a friend *that* sticketh closer than a brother.

Prov 27:6 Faithful *are* the wounds of a **friend**; but the kisses of an enemy *are* deceitful.

Prov 27:9 Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so *doth* the sweetness of a man's **friend** by hearty counsel.

Prov 27:17 Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his **friend**.

John 15:13-14 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴Ye are my **friends**, if ye do whatsoever I command you

G2083 From *hōçò* (a *clansman*); a *comrade*:—fellow, friend.

James 2:23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the **Friend** of God

Old Testament Friends:

Exodus 33:11 And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his *friend*. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.

¹²And Moses said unto the LORD, See, thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people: and thou hast not let me know whom thou wilt send with me. Yet thou hast said, I know thee by name, and thou hast also found grace in my sight.

¹³Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, show me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation *is* thy people. ¹⁴And he said, My presence shall go *with thee*, and I will give thee rest.

David and Jonathan-

1 Sam 18:1-4 And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was *knit with the soul of David*, and Jonathan *loved him* as his own soul. ²And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's house. ³Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. ⁴And Jonathan *stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle.*

1 Sam 19:1 And Saul spake to Jonathan his son, and to all his servants, that they should kill David. ²But Jonathan Saul's son *delighted much in David*: and Jonathan told David, saying, Saul *my father seeketh to kill thee*: now therefore, I pray thee, *take heed to thyself until the morning, and abide in a secret place, and hide thyself*:

Naomi and Ruth-

Ruth 1:4 And they took them wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they *dwelled there about ten years*.

Ruth 1:16 And Ruth said, Entreat me not to leave thee, *or to return from following after thee*: for whither thou goest, I will go;

and where thou lodgest, I will lodge:

thy people *shall be* my people,

and thy God my God:

¹⁷Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried:

the LORD do so to me, and more also, *if ought* but death part thee and me.

¹⁸When she saw that she was stedfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her.

Paul's Friends:

Titus 1:4 To Titus, *mine* own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour. ⁵For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:

Philemon 1:1-7 Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy *our* brother, unto Philemon our *dearly beloved*, and **fellow**labourer, ²And to *our beloved* Apphia, and Archippus our **fellows**soldier, and to the *church in thy house*: ³Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers, ⁵*Hearing of thy love and faith*, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints; ⁶That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of *every good thing which is in you* in Christ Jesus. ⁷For we have *great joy and consolation in thy love*, because the bowels of the *saints are refreshed* by thee, **brother**.

G4904 - sunergos - From a presumed compound of G4862 and the base of G2041; a *co-laborer*, that is, *coadjutor*:—companion in labour, (fellow-) helper (-labourer, -worker), labourer together with, workfellow.

G4862 – sun - A primary preposition denoting *union; with* or *together* (but much closer than G3326 or G3844), that is, by association, companionship, process, resemblance, possession, instrumentality, addition, etc.:—beside, with. In compounds it has similar applications, including *completeness*.

Philemon 1:10 I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds: ¹¹Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but *now profitable* to thee and to me:

1:13 Whom I would have retained with me, that in thy stead he might have *ministered unto me in the bonds* of the gospel

1:18 If he hath wronged thee, or oweth *thee* ought, *put that on mine account*

1:22 But withal *prepare me also a lodging*: for I trust that through your prayers I shall be given unto you. ²³There salute thee Epaphras, my **fellowprisoner** in Christ Jesus; ²⁴Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my **fellowlabourers**.

Col 4:7 All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you, *who is* a *beloved* brother, and a *faithful minister* and **fellowservant** in the Lord: ⁸Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that he might know your estate, and *comfort your hearts*; ⁹With Onesimus, a *faithful and beloved brother*, who is *one* of you

Col 4:10 Aristarchus my **fellow**prisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;) ¹¹And Jesus, which is called Justus, who are of the circumcision. These only *are my fellowworkers* unto the kingdom of God, which have been a *comfort unto me*. ¹²Epaphras, who is *one* of you, a *servant of Christ*, saluteth you, *always labouring fervently for you in prayers*, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. ¹³For I bear him record, that *he hath a great zeal for you*, and them *that are* in Laodicea, and them in Hierapolis. ¹⁴Luke, the *beloved physician*,

2 Tim 1:2 To Timothy, *my dearly beloved son*: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. ³I thank God, whom I serve from *my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;* ⁴*Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy;* ⁵When I call to remembrance the *unfeigned faith that is in thee.*

2 Tim 4:11 Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for *he is profitable to me* for the ministry. ¹²And Tychicus have I sent to Ephesus.

1 Cor 13:1-13 If I speak in the tongues^[a] of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, **but do not have love, I am nothing.** ³If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,^[b] but do not have love, I gain nothing. ⁴**Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.** ⁵**It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.** ⁶**Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.** ⁷**It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.** ⁸**Love never fails.**

¹³ And now these three remain: **faith, hope and love.** But the greatest of these is **love.**

Enemies:

Lamentations 1:2 She weepeth sore in the night, and her tears *are* on her cheeks: among all her lovers she hath none to comfort *her*: all her **friends** have dealt treacherously with her, they are become her **enemies**.

2 Tim 4: 10 For Demas hath *forsaken me*, having *loved this present world*, and is *departed* unto Thessalonica. Was Demas an enemy of the cross of Christ? Or just deserted Paul for fear of his own life?

2 Tim 4:14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works: ¹⁵Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words.

James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the **friendship** of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a **friend** of the world is the enemy of God (From G5384; *fondness*:—friendship.)

Questions to ask yourself:

So how many new friends do you want to make in the coming year?

What other goals might you want to set?

How about making God a friend as Abraham and Moses?

How about making an appointment with God to become friends?

How about reading through the Bible next year?

How about reading 4 books about strengthening your relationship with God?

How about doing what Colossians 1:10 says: *That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and **increasing in the knowledge of God;***

Any other Goals?

1

2

3

4

Friends

List a few of your closest friends by name:

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

Define some of their attributes, what they do for you, why they are close friends:

1	2
3	4
5	6
7	8

Define what you would like a friend to be or do:

1	2
3	4
5	6
7	8

Would you be defined this way by your friends?

Who would you like to be better friends with in this coming year?

1	2	3
4	5	6