

# FOSTERING FRIENDSHIP

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*Christian stewardship includes the management of human relationships. Fostering friendship is an important aspect. "A friend loves at all times." (Prov. 17:17)*

## TO BE A FRIEND . . .

- . . . first of all . . . make up your mind to be a friend.
- . . . pray for power to cultivate and nourish friendly relationships.
- . . . don't wait for friendship to come from others; be the first to extend it.
- . . . be a friend to yourself; it's hard to befriend others when you hate yourself.
- . . . strive to be a source of comfort and encouragement to others.
- . . . express your appreciation for admirable accomplishments and the good others have done.
- . . . be careful about what you say and how you say it; words can uplift or degrade relationships.
- . . . accept others as they are; better yet, accept them in spite of who they are.
  - . . . bury your pride by practicing honest humility.
  - . . . be yourself without hypocritical pretense.
- . . . nourish an understanding heart and forgiving nature; everyone stumbles now and then.
  - . . . put your shoulder to another's wheel to help achieve a goal.
- . . . radiate a warm spirit of good will anchored with the enduring, God-pleasing values of life.
  - . . . be a source of strength to someone weary and worn.
  - . . . most of all . . . imitate the loving friendship of Jesus; be a friend for Jesus' sake.

### Jesus, Our Perfect Friend

Reflecting upon friendship, Jesus said: "*Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.*" (John 15:13) Jesus laid down his life as the perfect sacrifice for our sins.

Redeemed, we will enjoy his friendship forever. "*... What a Friend we have in Jesus; All our sins and griefs to bear ... Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share? ... Are we weak and heavy laden, Burdened with a load of care? . . . In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a solace there.*" (Hymn #770; The Lutheran Service Book)

### Friendship Quotes

A friend in need is a friend indeed.  
(Latin Proverb)

The only way to have a friend is be one.  
(Ralph Waldo Emerson)

Reprove your friend in secret; praise him openly.  
(Syrus)

If you would be loved, love and be loveable.  
(Benjamin Franklin)

A friendly smile is worth a million dollars and doesn't cost a cent. (Wilbur Nesbit)

Your real friends tell you when your face is dirty.  
(Sicilian Proverb)

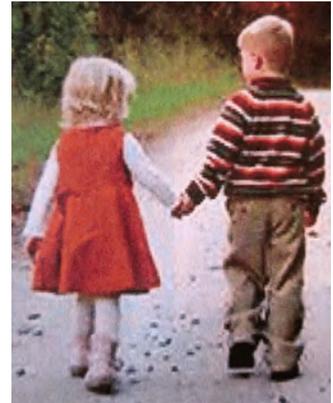
Friendship consists in forgetting what one gives and remembering what one receives. (Dumas)

### Befriend a Child with Praise

Teach children the beauty and value of friendship by being a sincere friend and extending friendly expressions of positive reinforcement. When a child has accomplished something worthwhile, verbally express your appreciation with praise.

#### Ways to Say It

- > Great!
- > You're super-special.
- > Fantastic!
- > I'm proud of you.
- > Awesome!
- > You've brightened my day.
- > Bravo!
- > You mean the world to me.
- > Velmi Dobre!



### Biblical Examples of Friendship

Abraham & Three Visitors (Genesis 18:1-7)

Ruth & Naomi (Ruth 1:16-18)

David & Jonathan (1 Samuel 20)

### RELATED RESOURCES

[www.selc.lcms.org](http://www.selc.lcms.org) - Personal Stewardship

Community: *Neighborliness*

Family: *Parental Stewardship*