

All Of My Best Friends-The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly

This week we are going to be talking about what makes a good friend and what makes a bad friend. We will finish up this series next week with the hard part, deciding which friends to keep and which to let go.

We will start with the traits of a good friend. What would you say are the top five traits of a good friend?

Let's see what the Bible has to say about our friends...

Traits of a good friend

1. Shared Hope in the Gospel-this must be the foundation of any good relationship
 - a. Amos 3:3
 - b. 2 Corinthians 6:14-15
 - c. Philippians 1:27
 - d. 1 Peter 1:13
2. Unconditional Love-The love in 1 Corinthians is not talking about marriage even though it can certainly be applied to it
 - a. Proverbs 17:17
 - b. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
3. Realistic Expectations-We are all flawed and should be understanding of that fact
 - a. 1 John 1:8
 - b. Colossians 3:12-13
4. Family Commitment—we are family in Christ
 - a. John 1:12
 - b. 2 Corinthians 6:18
 - c. Galatians 6:10
5. Heart of Edification—good friends build each other up not tear each other down
 - a. 1 Thessalonians 6:9-11
 - b. Ephesians 4:29
6. Gentle Admonition—we are to lovingly correct and be open to correction from our brothers and sisters in Christ
 - a. Galatians 6:1
 - b. Proverbs 27:5-6
 - c. Proverbs 27:17
7. Boundaries—avoid the temptation to be like this world—hold each other accountable
 - a. Proverbs 16:28
 - b. Psalm 141:3
 - c. Philippians 4:8

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What are five traits of a bad friend?

Types of bad friends

1. The tells you what you want to hear friend
 - a. Psalm 55:21
 - b. Proverbs 27:5-6
2. The not that serious about God friend
 - a. Matthew 22:37
 - b. Psalm 62:8
 - c. Amo 3:3
3. The complacent-no ambition-lazy friend
 - a. Colossians 3:23
 - b. Proverbs 26:13-16
4. The attention must be on me friend
 - a. John 3:30
5. The everyone else is doing it friend
 - a. Psalm 1:1-2
 - b. Proverbs 12:26
 - c. Romans 12:2
6. The pessimist-see the bad in everything-friend
 - a. Philippians 4:4-7
 - b. John 16:33
7. The unforgiving friend
 - a. Ephesians 4:32
 - b. Matthew 18:21-22
 - c. Matthew 6:14

These are just a few of the things God's Word has to say about non-romantic relationships, or friendships. It is by no means an all-inclusive list. However, I would venture to say, if you stuck strictly by these qualifications when determining if a friend is good or bad, I think your answer would be pretty accurate.

Recognizing these traits can be tricky. Our judgement is often impaired by our environment and/or our own struggles and hang-ups. It is vital that we use God's Word as our qualifications for any relationship.

Making, maintaining, and knowing when to let go of friendships can be a tricky task but these decisions have an enormous impact on our lives and how we live or don't live for Christ.

Next week, it's going to get ugly. We will dig into navigating our friendships in a world that tells us everything but the truth about them!