

Qualities of a True Friend

One of the greatest blessings in life is friendship. What would we do without our friends to encourage us and help us along the way? Friends have the potential of making a huge impact on our lives. Therefore, it is imperative that we choose our friends carefully, making sure that the friends we have are true friends. For not everyone who claims to be our friend actually is. Here are some qualities of a true friend.

First, a true friend is there in the good times and in the bad. True friends don't turn their back on you when you're going through tough times. Proverbs 17.17 says, "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity." If a so-called friend is not there for you when you need him most, then he is not a true friend. *Secondly, a true friend accepts you for who you are.* True friends appreciate your uniqueness and forgive your shortcomings. They don't try to make you into someone you're not.

Thirdly, a true friend tells you the truth. True friends tell you what you *need* to hear, not necessarily what you *want* to hear. Proverbs 27.5-6 reads, "A truly good friend will openly correct you. You can trust a friend who corrects you, but kisses from an enemy are nothing but lies" (CEV). *Fourthly, a true friend doesn't talk about you behind your back.* True friends don't put you down, make fun of you, or slander you when you're not around. Proverbs 11.13 says, "A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret."

Fifthly, a true friend makes you a better person. True friends encourage you to be the best person you can be. They are happy when you succeed, and they don't try to pull you down. Proverbs 13.20 says, "He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm." 1 Corinthians 15.33 states, "Bad company corrupts good character." If your friendships lead you away from God, they are not healthy friendships.

Finally, a true friend is willing to sacrifice his or her life for you. The ultimate example of this is Jesus Christ. He said, "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends" (John 15.13). And that is just what he did. Jesus gave his life for us, in order to provide forgiveness for our sins and to restore us back to God. What a friend! Do you know this Friend? If not, why not receive Jesus Christ as your Savior and Friend today? To do this, simply confess to God that you have sinned, ask Jesus Christ to forgive you and come into your life, and then live for him from this day forward.