

**"Tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD!" -1King 22:16**

### **What Kind Of Friends Do You Have?**

The Bible has a lot to say about the value of friends and friendship. In Eccl. 4:9-10 we read,

*"Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!"* This scripture is comforting because it expresses a deep, committed friendship. It is a great thing to have a friend who will stand with you, helping you in time of despair or in time of great need and sorrow. True friendships are very important and we should take full advantage of the friendships that we have been blessed with.

From a casual reading of Scriptures we learn that our Lord Jesus had friends: Peter, John, James, Lazarus, Mary, and Martha. David and Jonathan were friends. Job had friends, although they didn't do very well in his time of distress, nonetheless they were there.

I believe it is important for us to have friends that will help us get to Heaven. We should have friends that will help us keep on the straight and narrow and that will rebuke us when we have done wrong; for such a person I consider to be a true friend.

Do we want friends who will tell us the truth or who would lie to our faces? As hard as it might be for me, I believe that I would want a friend who would tell me the truth and not deceive me. I am persuaded that the apostle Peter didn't believe that the apostle Paul was his friend when he was rebuked for being a hypocrite (See Galatians 2:11-14). Paul told him the truth, and he might have gotten hot under the collar, but I



have no doubt that in due time Peter realized his mistake and it caused him to repent and change his views. If you were Peter, would you have considered Paul to be a true friend? We all need friends who will not be silent, but will rebuke us when we are in the wrong because they have genuine concern for our spiritual

well-being and a fervent love for our soul. Let me be honest. I might be embarrassed, hurt, or even lash out in anger, if I should ever be rebuked by a friend, but I hope and pray that I will have the courage and conviction to listen, and change if need be. A true friend will practice Galatians 6:1, which reads, *"Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted."*

I need friends that love God and His Word. I need God-fearing friends. We don't need or want friends who are, *"lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power"* (2 Timothy 3:1-10). We should not develop friendships with anyone, who will try to pull us away from our relationship with God!

If you don't have any real friends, then you need to do something about it. First, I would suggest prayer. Pray for a good relationship, for friends who are God-fearing, who share common ground with us in spiritual things. Second, seek friendships with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Friendship is not just about you. For the Christian friendship is about you helping

**HAVE YOU STUDIED YOUR BIBLE TODAY?**

