

A True Friend

(Proverbs 17)

I. Introduction:

- A. A tombstone in the past – Grace Llewellyn Smith
- B. A trip in the present – Three pastors fishing
- C. A truth for the future – Our need for a true friend

II. Exposition: Proverbs 17

- A. Friendship and the [mouth](#) (17:9)
 - 1. The [silence](#) that may [save](#) a friendship
 - A. We must [forgive](#) – not speak about
 - Matthew 18:21-22
 - Luke 7:47-50
 - B. We must [forget](#) – not hold against
 - Proverbs 10:12
 - 1 Peter 4:8
 - 2. The [speech](#) that may [separate](#) friends
 - The [questions](#) to ask
 - What is your reason for telling me?
 - Where did you get the information?
 - Have you gone to those involved?
 - Have you personally checked out the facts?
 - Can I quote you if I check this out?
 - The [quotes](#) to remember
 - Joseph Parker
 - Matthew Henry
 - Ray Pritchard
- B. Friendship and the [heart](#) (17:17)
 - 1. The love of a [friend](#) – at all times
 - The [contrast](#) – Job and Daniel

- The [companionship](#) – Paul and Luke
- The [comments](#)
 - Stephen Bly
 - Les Parrott III/Dr. Daniel Mark

- 2. The love of a [brother](#) – in adversity
 - [Accepts](#) – Regardless of circumstances
 - [Appreciates](#) – What you do
 - [Affirms](#) – Who you are
- 3. The example of [Jesus](#)
 - Mark 3:35
 - Hebrews 2:11

III. Conclusion: A true friend is ...

- [Supportive](#) in the midst of sorrow
- [Honest](#) in the midst of hypocrisy
- [Tender](#) in the midst of trials

Questions to reflect on individually and discuss in Small Groups:

1. What stuck out to you from the message? (What's your keeper?)
2. Once again, Proverbs addresses the tongue. In what ways have you seen words save a friendship and/or separate friends?
3. Review the questions to ask when being told something. How can these be helpful in avoiding gossip and strengthening friendships?
4. Share about a friend who has loved you at all times. Why do you think he/she did that?
5. Share about a brother/sister/friend that has stood beside you through adversity. What are your thoughts about that person?
6. How has Jesus modeled a True Friend for us?
7. What most sticks with you from the conclusion?
8. Finish this sentence with the primary thing that God is leading you to do: "In light of these passages and this discussion, I will..." (What is your action point?)

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