

Bible Verses that Elevate Friendship:

Job 6:14 – (friends that are of no help): “For the despairing man there should be kindness from his friend; Lest he forsake the fear of the Almighty”.

Job’s friend Eliphaz suggests that Job is suffering because of his own foolishness. Here Job tells Eliphaz that he’s the one acting foolish. Because if you’re withholding things like kindness, comfort, and compassion from your friends, you don’t fear God.

Job 42:10 – (Jobs reversal to his friends): “And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job when he prayed for his friends, and the Lord increased all that Job had twofold”.

Prov 16:28 - (Gossip separates friends): “A perverse man spreads strife, and a slanderer separates intimate friends”.

Gossip destroys reputations-and relationships. There’s something wrong with a person who enjoys stirring up conflict. Sharing secret knowledge feels powerful. But in the end, it erodes trust. We need to be careful not to associate with people who take pleasure in talking about others’ mistakes and weakness of character. Avoid them. If they gossip with you, they gossip about you.

Prov 17:9 – (Love covers offenses): “He who covers a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates intimate friends”.

Every close relationship goes through difficulties and trials. Inevitably, the people closest to you will let you down. And you’ll let them down. But how we handle those offenses will decide the direction of our friendships. When you cover something, you no longer can see it. Love can obscure the mistakes and missteps we’re tempted to let consume our relationships.

Prov 17:17 – (A friend loves at all times): “A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity”.

If you’ve ever had a fair-weather friend, you know how painful it can be. It’s one thing to have friends who are fun and frivolous. But it’s genuinely heartbreaking when you’re going through a trial and those people are nowhere to be found. **A true friend is always there.** They make time for you. Not only are they there to laugh with, but they’re also there when you need someone to cry with. When you find friends like that, hold on to them. They’re worth their weight in gold. And as you strive to share Christ with others, make an effort to be that friend, too.

Eccles 4:9-10 – (Two are better than one): “Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up”.

The author warns of isolation. Our friends and family are gifts that God gives us to make life more comfortable and fill it with joy. Just remember, you’re there to make their lives more enjoyable, too.

Phil 2:1-4 – (In humility, value others above yourself): “If therefore there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard

one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others”.

Jesus’s example to demonstrate how we should treat one another. Jesus sets aside His divinity and became a servant on our behalf. And He encourages us to have that same mindset with one another. We should make the daily choice to live as a servant to those close to us-to set aside our rights and expectations. This is the challenge of modeling ourselves on the example we see in Jesus.