

# “Bible Principles for Friendship”

*II Sam. 13:1-14*

## Open:

- Amnon developed improper feelings for his half-sister and notice that he knew it was wrong and that he knew he should not do anything to her. **vs. 1-2**
- Amnon had a friend who was known as a “subtle” man. Jonadab could see that something was bothering Amnon and convinced him to tell him. **vs. 3-4**
- Amnon’s friend Jonadab did not hesitate to devise an evil plan. Jonadab convinced Amnon that his desires were ok and showed Amnon an avenue of wrong. **vs. 5**
- Amnon listened to Jonadab’s advice and committed this wickedness, even against the will of his sister Tamar. **vs. 6-14**

## App:

- A true friend is not defined by how they make you feel, but by how far they are willing to go to protect you.
- A true friend is not your friend because they do wrong with you, a true friend is one who will protect you from wrong and will be there to encourage you to do right.
- A true friend cares more for the wellbeing of others than how others view him.
  - People’s influence goes beyond time spent with someone.
  - Influence can be gained through books, media [movies / internet], and music

## I. Realize you will be or soon become like those you call “friend.”

- A. God did not want His children to spend time with those who rejected Him, because God knew the temptation’s that would follow. **Ex. 23:33** *“They shall not dwell in thy land, lest they make thee sin against me: for if thou serve their gods, it will surely be a snare unto thee.”*
- ILL:** Solomon **I Kings 11:3-6** *“And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart. [4] For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. [5] For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. [6] And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father.”*
- B. God does not want His children to day to spend time with those who live their life contrary to the Word of God. **II Cor. 6: 14 – 17** *“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? [15] And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? [16] And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. [17] Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,”*

## II. Being your friend does not mean I turn a blind eye to your sin or cover for your sin.

- A. It is human nature to attempt to cover your up your wrong doings. Part of being a good friend is being willing to encourage those around you to do right; not justifying their wrong actions to make them feel better or to gain to gain their approval of you. **Prov. 28:13** *“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.”*
- B. We are not to condone the sin of the ones we love, but we are also not to hold it against them forever. **Luke 17:3** *“Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.”*
- C. Do not allow how you think others will view you to keep you from delivering the truth to those you love. **Gal. 4:16-17** *“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth? [17] They zealously affect you, but not well; yea, they would exclude you, that ye might affect them.”*

### III. Decide to be friendly to all; but to only be friends with those who make you better.

- A. You can be friendly to everyone; but choose to get close only to those individuals who make you better. **Prov. 27:17** *“Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.”*
  - Getting close to spiritual people is difficult because they will challenge you to be better.
- B. Be wise enough to surround yourself with individuals who will be there to help you get up WHEN you fall. **Ecc. 4:9-12** *“Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. [10] For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. [11] Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone? [12] And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.”*
- C. Choose to be the friend who helps restore the fallen, because one day you will need someone to be that friend to you. **Gal. 6:1** *“Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.”*

### IV. Realize one mistake does not disqualify someone from ever being your friend.

- Do not live your life questioning the sincerity of people in your life.
- A. God and Abraham (Stumbled in faithlessness) – **James 2:23** *“And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.”*
- B. Jesus and Judas (Betrayed God) – **Matt. 26:50** *“And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus, and took him.”*
- C. God and I (An enemy of God) – **Col. 1:21** *“And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled”* (I’m glad God did not wait for me to be perfect before choosing to be my friend. He restored me.)
  - If I live my life looking for perfect friends or expecting people, I am close to too be perfect I will live a lonely life.

### V. Trust Godly counsel in the area of Friendship.

- A. When you are cautioned about someone’s influence on your life, take heed. **Prov. 1:5** *“A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:”*
- B. Do not live your entire life looking at life only through your own eyes, seek and listen to counsel especially in the area of influence. **Prov. 12:15** *“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.”*
- C. Many good people with good intentions end up with disappointed purposes; because they set off to accomplish a well-intentioned plan while using poor judgement. **Prov. 15:22** *“Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.”*

## VI. Golden Rule – “Be the friend to others, that you need others to be to you.”

- Notice** the wording *“Be the friend to others, that you NEED others to be to you.”*
  - I should not live my life surrounding myself with or being the one who makes people feel like its ok to do something that is wrong.
  - We all need to be and need someone in our life who is willing to be honest with us, especially when we are about to do something that will harm us or our testimony.
- A. I should treat others the way I want to be treated. **Matt. 7:12** *“Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.”*
  - B. I should love others the way I want to be loved. **Matt. 22:39** *“And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”*
  - C. I should respond to others the way I want others to respond to me. **Luke 6:31** *“And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.”*

## VII. Choose your friends wisely.

- A. Am I going to be a friend of God’s or am I going to be friends with the world? **James 4:4** *“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”*
- B. I am to be changed into the person God wants me to be. I am not to allow the influences of the world to conform me to their likeness. **Rom. 2:1-2** *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. [2] And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”*

### Close:

- What kind of friend am I?
- What kind of friends am I surrounding myself with?
- Who am I closer to God or the world?