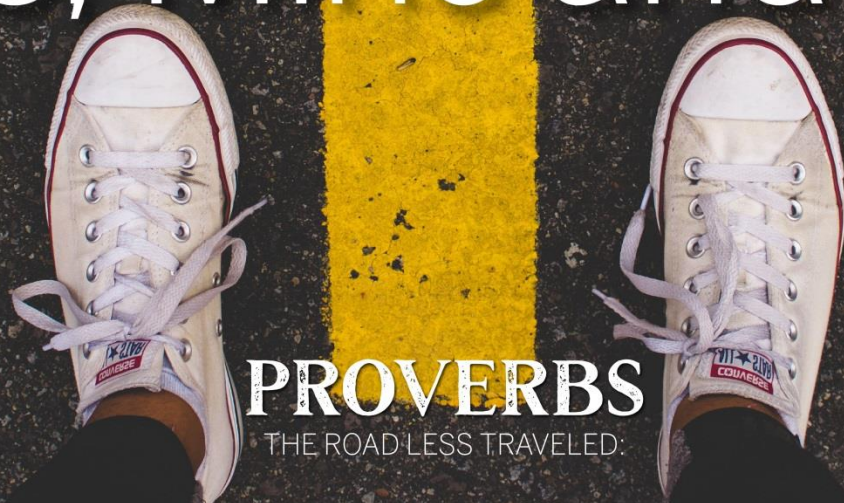


Overcoming Loneliness: Yours, Mine and Ours



PROVERBS
THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED.

The key to not being lonely is possessing and looking for friends that have godly qualities of healthy friendships. Being a friend is the key to having friends.

Proverbs 1:7

⁷ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge;
fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 27:1-10

- ¹ Do not boast about tomorrow,
for you do not know what a day may bring.
- ² Let another praise you, and not your own mouth;
a stranger, and not your own lips.
- ³ A stone is heavy, and sand is weighty,
but a fool's provocation is heavier than both.
- ⁴ Wrath is cruel, anger is overwhelming,
but who can stand before jealousy?
- ⁵ Better is open rebuke than hidden love.

Proverbs 27:1-10

- ⁶ Faithful are the wounds of a friend;
profuse are the kisses of an enemy.
- ⁷ One who is full loathes honey,
but to one who is hungry everything bitter is sweet.
- ⁸ Like a bird that strays from its nest
is a man who strays from his home.
- ⁹ Oil and perfume make the heart glad, and the
sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel.

Proverbs 27:1-10

¹⁰ Do not forsake your friend and your father's friend, and do not go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity. Better is a neighbor who is near than a brother who is far away.

Characteristics of Healthy Friends:

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1) Genuinely Humble

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- Not inflated view of one's control of life

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- Not inflated view of one's control of life
- **Not self-promoter**

Proverbs 27:1

¹ Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.

Proverbs 27:1-2

- ¹ Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.
- ² **Let another praise you**, and **not your own mouth**; a stranger, and **not your own lips**.

Relationship with God:

Relationship with God:

- **Boasting – Big, inaccurate view of self, small inaccurate view of God**

Relationship with God:

- Boasting – Big, inaccurate view of self, small inaccurate view of God
- **Humble – Big, accurate view of God, small accurate view of self**

Characteristics of Healthy Friends:

- 1) Genuinely Humble
- 2) **Not Irritating**

2) Not Irritating

- **Provoke**

2) Not Irritating

- Provoke
- **Wrath**

2) Not Irritating

- Provoke
- Wrath
- **Anger**

2) Not Irritating

- Provoke
- Wrath
- Anger
- **Jealous**

Proverbs 27:1-4

- ¹ Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.
- ² Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.
- ³ A stone is heavy, and sand is weighty, but a **fool's provocation is heavier than both.**
- ⁴ **Wrath is cruel, anger is overwhelming,**
but **who can stand before jealousy?**

Relationship with God:

Relationship with God:

- **Irritating – Not finding significance, security, happiness in God's love – Discontent**

Relationship with God:

- Irritating – Not finding significance, security, happiness in God's love – Discontent
- **Not irritating – Finding significance, security, happiness in God's love - Content**

Characteristics of Healthy Friends:

- 1) Genuinely Humble
- 2) Not Irritating
- 3) **Lovingly Candid**

3) Lovingly Candid

- **Speaking the truth in love is essential**

3) Lovingly Candid

- Speaking the truth in love is essential
- **Not speaking the truth in love is cowardly and hurtful**

Proverbs 27:1-6

- ¹ Do not boast about tomorrow,
for you do not know what a day may bring.
- ² Let another praise you, and not your own mouth;
a stranger, and not your own lips.
- ³ A stone is heavy, and sand is weighty,
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- ⁴ Wrath is cruel, anger is overwhelming,
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- ⁶ Faithful are the wounds of a friend;
profuse are the kisses of an enemy.

Why don't we speak more candidly more often?

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- Fear

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- **Prefer to be liked**

Why don't we speak more candidly more often?

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- **Bad experiences**

Why don't we speak more candidly more often?

- Fear
- Prefer to be liked
- Bad experiences
- **Recognizing our own lack of wisdom**

Relationship with God:

Relationship with God:

- **Not candid – not secure in God's love, needing approval of people**

Relationship with God:

- Not candid – not secure in God's love, needing approval of people
- **Lovingly candid – loved by God, love from God shared with those we love**

Characteristics of Healthy Friends:

- 1) Genuinely Humble
- 2) Not Irritating
- 3) Lovingly Candid
- 4) **Devoted to Spouse**

4) Devoted to Spouse

- Both overindulging and starving are not healthy

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- Both overindulging and starving are not healthy
- **A spouse is to be treasured**

Proverbs 27:1-8

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Relationship with God:

Relationship with God:

- **Not devoted – Not finding satisfaction in primary relationship God designed for it**

Relationship with God:

- Not devoted – Not finding satisfaction in primary relationship God designed for it
- **Devoted – Enjoying the most intimate friendship God designed**

Characteristics of Healthy Friends:

- 1) Genuinely Humble
- 2) Not Irritating
- 3) Lovingly Candid
- 4) Devoted to Spouse
- 5) **Dedicated to Friends**

4) Dedicated to Friends

- **Good, faithful friends are not easy to find**

4) Dedicated to Friends

- Good, faithful friends are not easy to find
- **Friends are sometimes more meaningful relationships than family**

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your calamity. Better is a neighbor who is near
than a brother who is far away.**

Relationship with God:

Relationship with God:

- **Not dedicated – Not appreciating depth of God's gift**

Relationship with God:

- Not dedicated – Not appreciating depth of God's gift
- **Dedicated – Appreciating God's use of friends to communicate, display and experience His love**

Takeaways:

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2. **Commit to building trust in others that will enable our sharing candidly with them.**

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1. Commit to being the person who happily receives loving candor from our friends.
2. Commit to building trust in others that will enable our sharing candidly with them.
3. **Make the effort to invest in our relationships – Being a friend is the key to having friends.**