

## Sermon Text Discussion 6/11/17

Proverbs 27: 1-22 – “Cultivating Friendship” by Drew Hunter

### Overview

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One of the main themes in Proverbs is how to have true friendship. God gave us Proverbs to fill the world with true friendships, healthy marriages, and peaceful neighbors. Proverbs speaks so much about relationships because healthy relationships require a great deal of work and wisdom. We can think about all our closest relationships like a garden. Each person is planted in our life. And all of them together are a garden. Relational weeds can smother a garden. These three questions are addressed with wisdom from Proverbs:

Proverbs 1-4

- 1) What Does Friendship Look Like? (The Marks of Friendship)  
Candor (v.5-6) Counsel (v.9) Constancy (v.10)
- 2) How Does it Fail? (The Challenges of Friendship)  
Self-Praise (v.1,2) Inconsiderateness (v.14) Strife (v.3,4; 15-17)
- 3) How to Experience It (The Power of Friendship)  
As we walk with Jesus Christ, the great Friend of sinners, we'll become like him.

### Quotations

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“The Lord who had brought us together had so knit our hearts and affections that for nearly 12 years, we were seldom separated for 12 hours at a time when we were awake and at home. The first six I passed in daily admiring and trying to imitate him; during the second six I walked pensively with him in the valley of the shadow of death.”

John Newton describing his friendship with William Cowper, a gifted hymn writer who struggled with depression.

### Understanding & Application

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- 1) “Better is open rebuke than hidden love and faithful are the wounds of a friend” Proverbs (Proverbs 27:5) How have you applied or experienced the “faithful wounds of a friend”?
- 2) “..the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel.” (Proverbs 27:9) In what ways have you matured in giving earnest counsel to a friend? How do you seek it out?
- 3) “Do not forsake your friend or your father's friend” (Proverbs 27:10) Who in your life would benefit from you showing a good measure of constancy or devotion to them?
- 4) Picturing your relationships like a garden, are the weeds of inconsiderateness or strife threatening to smother it?
- 5) Are your relationships about you and how people can serve you or more about others and how you can serve them?
- 6) How has Jesus become a Friend to you? In what ways has this friendship changed you? How has it improved your other relationships?