

## **SERMON OUTLINE**

**'Getting it right: wise words for life'**

**'The Book of Proverbs'**

**Study - 3**

**John 15 v9 - 17**

Key Text - 18 v24.

Key Question - Do we have such a friend?

*'I have no need of friendship; friendship causes pain'*

*Paul Simon / Art Garfunkel*

Key Point - We all need friendship!

Key Definition - 'Friendship is the cooperative and supportive relationship between two or more people - a relationship which involves mutual knowledge, esteem, affection, and respect along with a degree of rendering service to each other.'

*'When you're down and troubled  
and you need a helping hand....*

*I'll be there - yes I'll be there.*

*You've got a friend.'*

*James Taylor*

### **1. FRIENDSHIP - AND THE BOOK OF PROVERBS**

The Book of Proverbs has so much to say about friendship - about the Christian friend who will always be there for you and there with you.

#### **A. THE TRUE FRIEND IS ALWAYS THERE FOR YOU, LOVINGLY SUPPORTING YOU WHEN YOU ARE IN PARTICULAR NEED**

Key Verse - 17 v17. The adversity here is, particularly, when the very worst happens to us caused by our own sinful foolishness and waywardness. The mark of friendship here, is - loyalty.

Note - Proverbs warns us about how we should go about choosing our friends. See - 12 v26a. It's easy to attract friends when you're

rich and famous. See - 19 v4 & v6.

**B. THE TRUE FRIEND IS ALWAYS THERE FOR YOU,  
SPEAKING THE TRUTH TO YOU WHEN YOU  
REALLY NEED TO HEAR IT**

Key Verse - 27 v6. Note - it's the enemy who kisses and the friend who wounds. See - Eph 4 v15a.

**C. THE TRUE FRIEND IS ALWAYS THERE FOR YOU,  
COVERING OVER YOUR SINS WHEN OTHERS  
ARE GOSSIPING ABOUT THEM**

Key Verse - 17 v9 & 1 Pet 4 v8. See also - 16 v28

**D. THE TRUE FRIEND IS ALWAYS THERE FOR YOU,  
ENCOURAGING YOU WHEN YOU'RE FEELING  
LOST AND DOWN**

Key Verse - 27 v9.

**2. FRIENDSHIP - AND THE GOSPEL OF JESUS**

Key Point - Even the very best of friends will let us down. Jesus is the best friend to have because He never will. Remember - He died to make you His friends. See - Jn 15 v9 - 17.

*I've found a Friend, O such a Friend!  
He bled, He died to save me;'*

*James Small*

**3. FRIENDSHIP - AND THE CHURCH OF GOD**

Key Question - Where can people who are lost and lonely go to find friendship? Is the answer - Holyrood Abbey?