

# Proverbs Pt. 6

Pastor James Foley – Shared Sunday, September 5, 2021

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## COMMUNION

Communion is the Christ-ordained means whereby His people are to remember His sacrifice until He Returns...

- 1) The Wafer Symbolizes the BODY of Christ – Broken for Us**
- 2) The Juice Symbolizes the BLOOD of Christ – Shed for Us All**

### **1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NIV)**

23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” 25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” 26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

## SUMMATIONS

Thank you for joining us and God bless you this Labor Day Weekend! Whether you are here in person or watching via the livestream, you are most welcome. Please have a Bible at the ready and be prepared to take some notes. We have much to cover in a short amount of time.

## SETTING THE STAGE

**NOTE 1** – We are in the midst of an extended series on the Book of Proverbs. In fact, today is the sixth of seven lessons. Please feel free to review previous installments online, as I do not have time this morning to review recently-covered subject matter. Instead, I will simply note that...

**NOTE 2** – The Book of Proverbs offers divine wisdom on an array of topics pertaining to earthly life and living. Those who desire to live well before the Lord and among men, properly discerning good from evil, do well to consider this timeless and timely work of biblical literature.

**NOTE 3** – The Book of Proverbs serves as a compilation of individual proverbs that address nearly every facet of life (e.g., pride v. humility, anger v. self-control, hatred v. compassion, poverty v. wealth, generosity v. greed, hard work v. idleness, matters of reputation and legacy, family, friendship, submission to governing authority, the power our words, and beyond).

**KEY** – This AM I would like to consider what the Book of Proverbs notes re: friendship and human connection...

## DEFINITION & EXAMPLE PT. 1

**NOTE 1** – A British publication once offered a prize for the best definition of the word *friend*. The winner of the prize provided the following insight: “A friend is one who comes in when the whole world has gone out.” I appreciate this sentiment.

**NOTE 2** – Allow me to note that the dictionary defines friend as the following: “a person whom one knows and with whom one has a bond of mutual affection.” Of course, this is an accurate but rather clinical definition. I am not sure how much insight it provides...

**NOTE 3** – Perhaps like me, you learn best by example and/or illustration. Since friendship is a universal element of the human condition, we should not be surprised to see examples of friendship abound in both pop culture and media. If you have ever seen a movie or show...

**Q1. Can you think of any classic examples of friendship?**

**Q2. What iconic examples of connection abide in our society?**

**KEY** – Though I may be dating myself, allow me to put forth the following in reply...

## DEFINITION & EXAMPLE PT. 2

**SLIDE 1** – Fred Flintstone and Barney Rubble from *The Flintstones*...

Fred and Barney illustrate the friendship of “neighborliness” (i.e., the sharing of both property lines and lives).

**SLIDE 2** – Kevin Arnold and Paul Pfeiffer from *The Wonder Years*...

Kevin and Paul illustrate the friendship of discovery and mutual growth (i.e., particularly in the midst of youth).

**SLIDE 3** – Blanche, Rose, Dorothy and Sophia from *The Golden Girls*

The G. G. illustrate the friendship that both celebrates and treasures life amidst challenge (particularly in age).

**SLIDE 4** – The Avengers from *The Avengers*

This team of heroes illustrates the friendship of interdependence (a mutual reliance fueled by a common goal).

**SLIDE 5** – Johnny and Daniel from *Cobra Kai*

These two illustrate the friendship of contrasting personalities and perspectives (i.e., “unlikely and dissimilar”).

**SLIDE 6** – Sam & Frodo from *The Lord of the Rings*

This duo illustrates the friendship characterized by abiding fidelity, humble service and complete selflessness.

**KEY 1** – Such examples inform our views concerning friendship, helping us to understand what it means to be a friend. In many ways we are molded by society and culture far more than we would like to admit! Of course, this is not necessarily wrong per se, but that which is founded upon human creativity is inherently fallible...

**KEY 2** – Thus said, those who seek an infallible source and guide for friendship and interpersonal connection should look to the Lord who fashioned them. Thankfully, the Word of God has much to say on these themes, particularly within the pages of the Book of Proverbs. What does Scripture say regarding friendship?

LET’S DELVE IN...

## THE INFLUENCE OF FRIENDS PT. 1

To begin, the Bible has much to say concerning the influence of our friends...

**NOTE 1** – Simply stated, our peers and the people we allow into the inner circles of our lives influence us greatly. In fact, we often take on the characteristics and habits of those with whom we surround ourselves. Consider the following passage...

### **Proverbs 13:20 (NIV)**

20 Walk with the wise and become wise,  
for a companion of fools suffers harm.

**QUOTE** – “Always make friends with those who are smarter than you: that’s how you become smart yourself.”

**NOTE 2** – Knowing this, the Lord warns against the influence of the wicked. Though we are to be in the world, Scripture continually cautions us against making deep friendships with the rejecting. God does not want us to take on their evil behaviors and activities. Consider the following passage...

### **Proverbs 22:24–25**

24 Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person,  
do not associate with one easily angered,  
25 or you may learn their ways  
and get yourself ensnared.

**NOTE 3** – On the other hand, there is benefit in forming deep connections with the righteous (pos. influence)...

### **Proverbs 27:17**

17 As iron sharpens iron,  
so one person sharpens another.

## THE INFLUENCE OF FRIENDS PT. 2

In light of these principles, we must exercise wisdom in selecting an inner circle of friends...

### **Proverbs 12:26 (Emphasis Mine)**

26 The righteous **choose** their friends **carefully**,  
but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

**NOTE 1** – A righteous person does not take on just anyone as a friend. Rather, they are selective and discerning. Though we are to love the world and reach out to the lost through relational connection, we are to practice caution concerning who we allow into the inner circle of our lives. Let us be like Christ...

**NOTE 2** – Jesus (cf. Matt. 11:19) was known to be a friend of sinners, in that He spent time with them and cared for their needs. However, His most intimate companions were those devoted to the Lord. This allowed Jesus to influence the world without being influenced by or isolated from it. Godly balance!

## RED FLAGS

**KEY** – Delving deeper, the Bible warns against making friends with certain types of people...

### 1) The Gossip

#### **Proverbs 20:19**

19 A gossip betrays a confidence;  
so avoid anyone who talks too much.

### 2) The Short-Tempered

#### **Proverbs 22:24–25**

24 Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person,  
do not associate with one easily angered,  
25 or you may learn their ways  
and get yourself ensnared.

### 3) The Drinker and the Glutton

#### **Proverbs 23:20–21**

20 Do not join those who drink too much wine  
or gorge themselves on meat,  
21 for drunkards and gluttons become poor,  
and drowsiness clothes them in rags.

### 4) The Dishonest and Unfaithful

#### **Proverbs 25:19**

19 Like a broken tooth or a lame foot  
is reliance on the unfaithful in a time of trouble.

### 5) The Rebellious

#### **Proverbs 24:21–22**

21 Fear the Lord and the king, my son,  
and do not join with rebellious officials,  
22 for those two will send sudden destruction on them,  
and who knows what calamities they can bring?

## 6) The Violent

### Proverbs 1:10–19

- 10 My son, if sinful men entice you,  
do not give in to them.
- 11 If they say, “Come along with us;  
let’s lie in wait for innocent blood,  
let’s ambush some harmless soul;
- 12 let’s swallow them alive, like the grave,  
and whole, like those who go down to the pit;
- 13 we will get all sorts of valuable things  
and fill our houses with plunder;
- 14 cast lots with us;  
we will all share the loot” —
- 15 my son, do not go along with them,  
do not set foot on their paths;
- 16 for their feet rush into evil,  
they are swift to shed blood.
- 17 How useless to spread a net  
where every bird can see it!
- 18 These men lie in wait for their own blood;  
they ambush only themselves!
- 19 Such are the paths of all who go after ill-gotten gain;  
it takes away the life of those who get it.

**KEY** – Seek connection w/ those who can keep a confidence, the patient, the self-controlled, and the peaceful!

## FOUNDATIONAL ELEMENTS PT. 1

Moving onward in our study...

### Q. What are the qualities of a healthy friendship?

#### A1. Sincerity.

Healthy friendships are based on genuine loyalty and mutual concern. A good friend is not concerned with what they can get out of the relationship, but what they can give and/or invest. “Fair-weather friends” who hang about for the wrong reasons (i.e., gain) are no friends at all...

### Proverbs 19:4a, 6

4 Wealth attracts many friends . . .

6 Many curry favor with a ruler,  
and everyone is the friend of one who gives gifts.

## **A2 Diligent Love**

### **Proverbs 17:17**

17 A friend loves at all times,  
and a brother is born for a time of adversity.

## **A3. Forgiveness**

### **Proverbs 17:9**

9 Whoever would foster love covers over an offense,  
but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.

## **A4. Mutual Refinement**

### **Proverbs 27:6**

6 Wounds from a friend can be trusted,  
but an enemy multiplies kisses.

**KEY 1** – Practice such things and you will establish your friendship(s) upon a truly solid foundation!

**KEY 2** – Of course, the Book of Proverbs touches upon those habits that erode a suitable foundation...

## **FOUNDATIONAL ELEMENTS PT. 2**

**NOTE 1** – Do not make a pest of yourself and overstay your welcome...

### **Proverbs 25:17**

17 Seldom set foot in your neighbor's house—  
too much of you, and they will hate you.

**NOTE 2** – Do not be inconsiderate...

### **Proverbs 27:14**

14 If anyone loudly blesses their neighbor early in the morning, it will be taken as a curse.

**ILL** – John Alers calling me at 1am re: a movie he saw and my words of warning!

**NOTE 3** – Do not betray a confidence...

### **Proverbs 17:9**

9 Whoever would foster love covers over an offense,  
but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.

**NOTE 4** – Do not traffic in senseless arguments...

### **Proverbs 17:14**

14 Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam;  
so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out.

## **BIBLICAL REMEDIES**

Of course, all relationships experience moments of conflict. Proverbs speaks to solving relational issues...

### **1) Seek Peace with God First**

Before you try to address relationship problems one-with-another, make sure your relationship with the Lord is solid. You cannot have peace (i.e., harmony) with your fellow man until you know peace with God through Christ...

#### **Proverbs 16:7 (NIV, 1984)**

7 When a man's ways are pleasing to the LORD,  
he makes even his enemies live at peace with him.

### **2) Mind Your Temper**

Your temper may be a hindrance to reconciliation. Take some time to calm down before you seek resolution...

#### **Proverbs 15:18 (NIV)**

18 A hot-tempered person stirs up conflict,  
but the one who is patient calms a quarrel.

### **3) Watch Your Words Pt. 1**

#### **Proverbs 15:1**

1 A gentle answer turns away wrath,  
but a harsh word stirs up anger.

**KEY** – It is not what you say, but how you say it!

### **4) Watch Your Words Pt. 2**

#### **Proverbs 10:19 (NIV, 1984)**

19 When words are many, sin is not absent,  
but he who holds his tongue is wise.

### **5) Practice Purposeful Listening**

#### **Proverbs 18:13**

13 To answer before listening . . . is folly and shame.

### **6) Be Quick to Demonstrate Love**

#### **Proverbs 10:12 (NIV)**

12 Hatred stirs up conflict,  
but love covers over all wrongs.

## 7) Speak the Truth in Love

### Proverbs 28:23

23 Whoever rebukes a person will in the end gain favor  
rather than one who has a flattering tongue.

**NOTE** – Sometimes we compromise the truth in order to keep the peace. We act like “all is well” because challenging poor behavior seems too difficult or risky. This, however, does not establish peace (i.e., only the illusion or appearance of peace). Sometimes the other party is wrong and needs to be challenged...

## ONE FINAL WORD

I have chosen to end with the following Proverb...

### Proverbs 18:24 (NIV)

24 A man of many companions may come to ruin,  
but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

**KEY** – You may have many friends, and I pray the Lord blesses each and every connection. However, there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother (i.e., a level of intimacy and access beyond the normal ties of family and friendship). That friend is Jesus...and He is calling out to you today!

## CONCLUSIONS

**NOTE 1** – Those who wish to give online may do so at [www.NewLifeBarre.org](http://www.NewLifeBarre.org). Those who wish to give in person can utilize the offering boxes located throughout the church facility. Thank you for your faithfulness in supporting the work of the Lord!

**NOTE 2** – Sunday School each week at 9:15am; Thursday Bible Study at 6:30pm; WM 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday; MM & CYC...

**NOTE 3** – Those who wish to linger in this sanctuary may feel free to do so. This is to be a house of prayer, so those who feel the need to pray may do so as they please. Moreover, I would be more than happy to pray with those who have need(s).

### Numbers 6:24–26

24 The Lord bless you  
and keep you;  
25 the Lord make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you;  
26 the Lord turn his face toward you  
and give you peace.