

# Friends... Who Needs 'Em?

*Biblical Essentials for Building Indispensable Alliances*



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**1. Befriend** \_\_\_\_\_ (18:1)

**2. Commit** \_\_\_\_\_ (18:2-30)

**3. Commit** \_\_\_\_\_ (19:1 – 20:41)

**4. Commit** \_\_\_\_\_ (20:42)

# Application Questions

*These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. It is recommended that you take time this week to write out your response to each of these questions. This will help to drive home the point of today's message and will help you apply the principles to your life situation.*

1. Though the biblical requirement for Christians is not that we have "lots of friends" (Prov.18:24), the biblical example is that we are to cultivate some significant and deeply committed friendships other than those in our immediate family. How are you doing in following this example?
2. Read Proverbs 13:20. The Bible places a lot of emphasis on the importance of choosing our friends wisely. What wise and godly acquaintance do you believe God would have you deepen and cultivate into a friendship?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:33. This verse implies that it is possible for us to be deceived (by a variety of excuses) into maintaining and investing in an unedifying "friendship." Ponder carefully those who might be considered your friends. Who in that group is a ungodly influence on you? What practical steps and costs will be involved in changing that situation?

3. Godly friendships require time. What superfluous activity can you curtail in your weekly schedule and replace with an investment in a friend? How might you "double-up" by accomplishing a necessary task with a friend?
4. What creative ways can you sacrifice and give of yourself for a friend this week? Be specific.

Read 1 John 3:16b. It is easy to applaud this abstract truth, but it is difficult when there is something practical involved. What might it cost you to defend and protect one of your friends? Think carefully as to whether there might be a need for "defense" or "protection" in the life of a friend?

5. What are some of the ways that people have effectively and sincerely encouraged you?

What will you do this week to encourage a friend?