
Proverbs
Seek Wisdom
Find Life



Proverbs on Friendship

Including Proverbs:

16:28 • 17:9 • 17:17 • 18:24
19:4 • 19:6-7 • 22:11 • 27:6 • 27:9
27:10 • 27:14 • 27:17

13:20 • 14:7 • 22:24-25
24:1-2 • 28:7

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO BE WISE ABOUT FRIENDSHIP?



IF WISDOM WERE A PERSON, HOW WOULD SHE TALK ABOUT YOUR FRIENDS?



WHAT DO YOUR FRIENDSHIP CHOICES SAY ABOUT YOU?



HERE ARE SOME THINGS I'VE HEARD MY FRIENDS SAY ABOUT BEING A FRIEND.



“It takes initiative to be a friendly man.”



“We talk a lot. That’s fun. So what?
What does that cost you?
If you never actually do anything for me,
How is that friendship?”



“God wants to use my mistakes and your …experiences in this area to help others learn about friendship.”



“Every new friend is a new adventure.”



“They used to do everything together. Then one day [she] fell in with the wrong crowd.”



“Dude. Go away.
I’m trying to miss you.”



HERE'S WHAT Proverbs SAYS ABOUT FRIENDS.



An Outline of Friendship Proverbs

- Covenantal reciprocity • 17:17; 18:24
- the Need vs. Cruel Math • 14:20; 19:4, 6-7
- for Correction • 18:1; 27:5-6, 17
- for Appreciation • 27:9
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COVENANTAL RECIPROCITY



Context: COVENANT vs. TRANSACTION

- Verses on friendship can feel opaque
- Are we supposed to see an aspired virtue?
- Or are we meant to take pragmatic warning?
- Ancient scholars struggled with hierarchism
- Jesus: "Instead, I have called you friends"
- Model: sharing; unconditional; fellowship



Covenantal Reciprocity

A friend loves at all times,
And a brother is born for adversity.
- *Proverb 17:17*

Some believe "and" should be "but," for contrast.

But, more likely, friend and brother are both meant to be with you—thick and thin!



Covenantal Reciprocity

A man of [too many] friends [comes] to ruin,

But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

- *Proverb 18:24 (NASB)*

A man who has friends must himself be friendly

- *Proverb 18:24a (NKJV)*



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THE NEED
vs.
THE CRUEL MATH



Why Need? — The Cruel Math

God constantly puts challenges in our path.
He does this to prompt us to reconcile with Him
This is not selfish. We need Him.
This futility, mixed with sin, leads to hard math.
Whose cruelty?
Credit rates. Interest. Labels. Repute. Money.
These are ours. God wounds *faithfully.*



The Need for Friendship

The poor man is hated even by his own neighbor,
But the rich has many friends.

- *Proverb 14:20 (NKJV)*

Wealth adds many friends,
But a poor man is separated from his friend.

- *Proverb 19:4*



The Need for Friendship

Many will seek the favor of a generous man,
And every man is a friend
to him who gives gifts.
All the brothers of a poor man hate him;
How much more do his friends abandon him!
He pursues them with words, but they are gone.

- *Proverb 19:6-7*



The Need for Friendship

Are these a cautionary tale about being poor?
Better not be poor, or you'll have no friends?
Serves you right for not being rich?
No.

Money (and thus poverty) is not a measure of scarcity, but of trust.



The Need for Friendship: The Cruel Math

The worse fortunes people have had,
the worse abuse they have suffered,
the worse the bad decisions they have made,
the less money, credit, credibility, trust, hope,
the more they need chances and friends,
the less likely they are to have them,
the more criticized those who befriend them.



The Need for Friendship: The Cruel Math

Jesus was called “friend of sinners” as an insult.
He risked reputation on needy people routinely.
He was okay with what we would cost him.
He was already God, needing nobody's approval.
He knew He’d get new life: for Him; and for us.
He is the firm foundation on which we stand,
to follow His example.



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THE CALL
to
CORRECTION



Correction — Why Be Known at All?

Hate? Abandon?

Friends don't sound that great.

Can't I just get by without friends?



Correction — Why Be Known at All?

"It's worse when they think they're your friend. … They make assumptions.

They think they know you, then start to expect things of you.

Then you have to be the person everyone thinks you are,

not the person you actually are."

- *Lift (fictional street urchin)*



Correction — To Know Yourself Better!

He who separates himself seeks his own desire,
He quarrels against all sound wisdom.
- *Proverb 18:1*



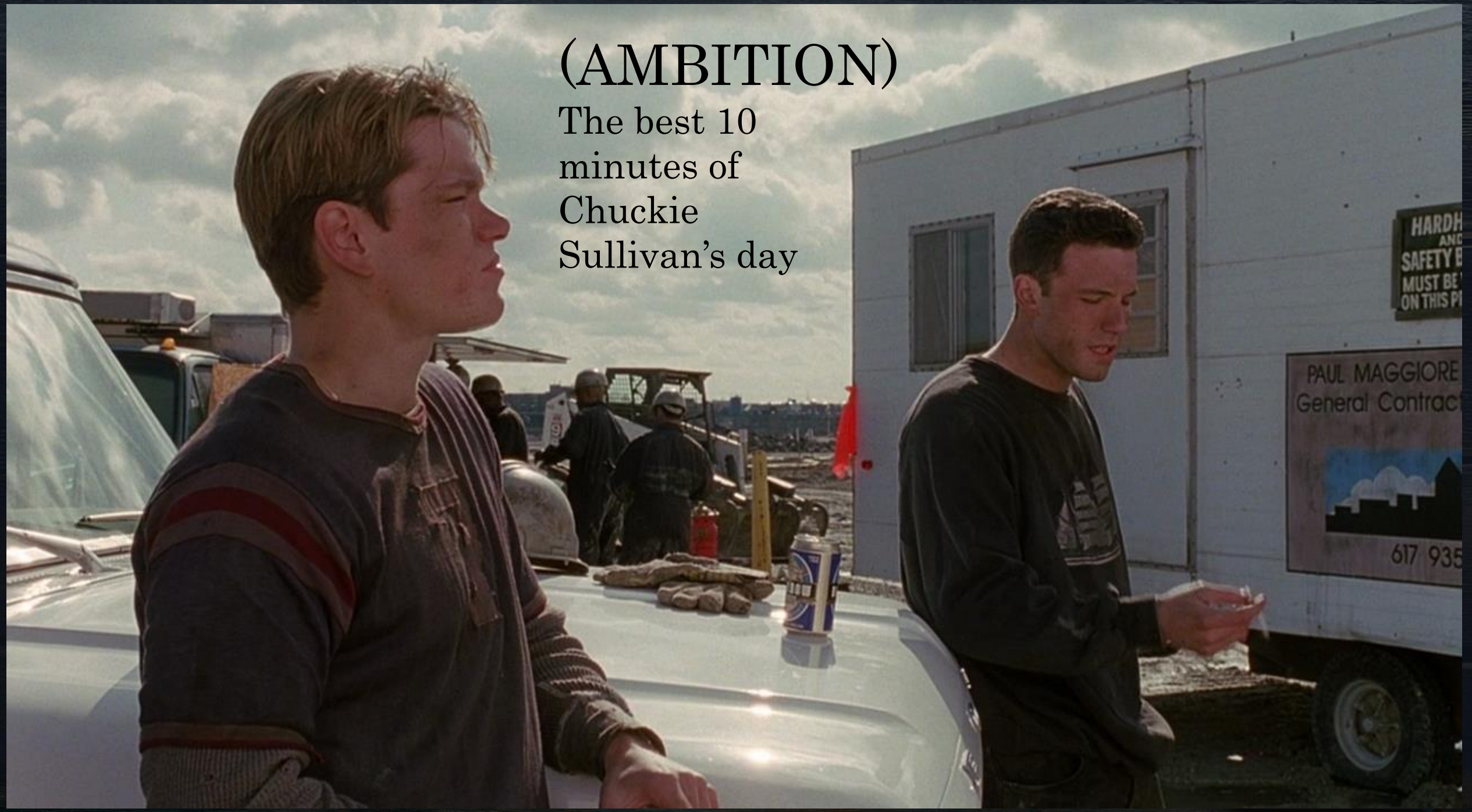
Correction

Faithful are the wounds of a friend,
But deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.

- *Proverb 27:6*

…the wounds of a friend?




(AMBITION)
The best 10 minutes of Chuckie Sullivan's day
PAUL MAGGIORE
General Contract
617 935


(REPENTANCE)
Rey's belief in the
heroic idea of Luke


(PROTECTION)
George Henderson's urgent,
harsh rejection of Harry



Correction

Iron sharpens iron,
So one man sharpens another.

- *Proverb 27:17*




J.R.R. Tolkien
C.S. Lewis



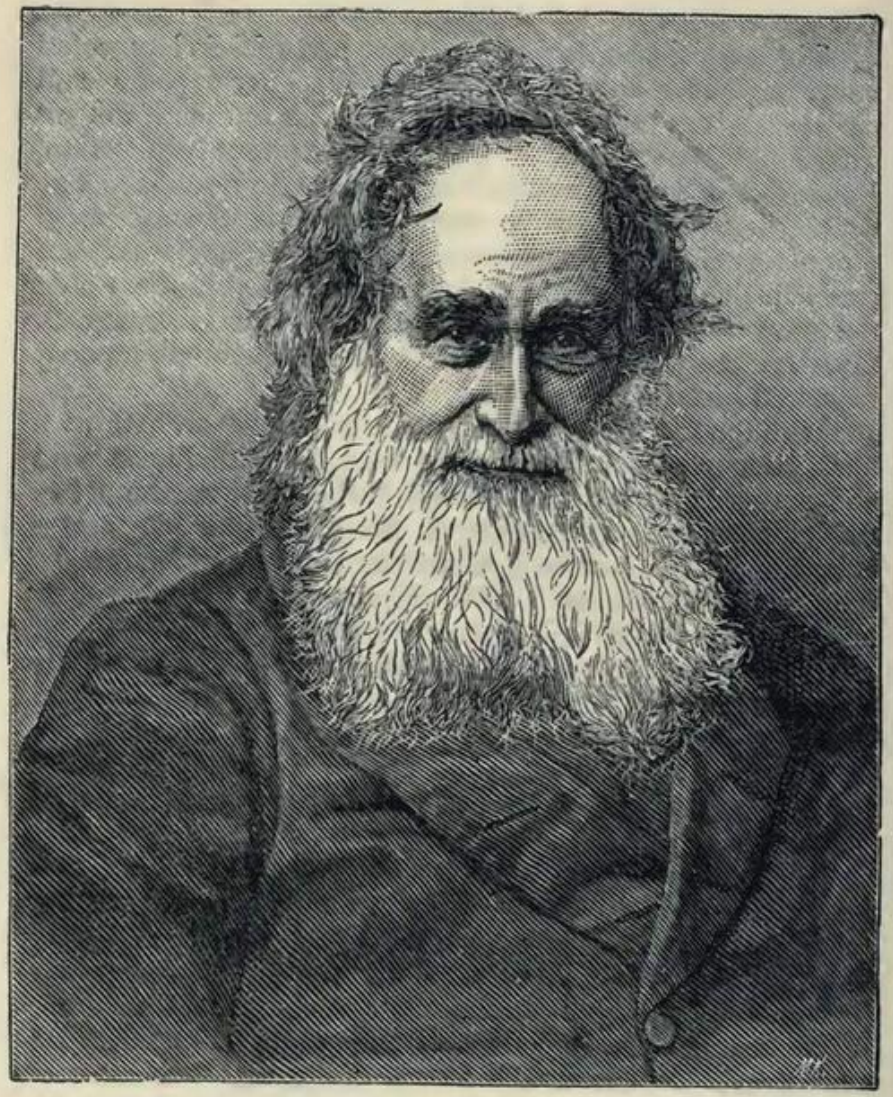




Wm Hall.

David Livingstone

From a Portrait by Henry Phillips,
in the poſſeſſion of M.r Murray.



Yours very sincerely
Robert Moffat.

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THE CALL *to* APPRECIATION



Appreciation

Oil and perfume make the heart glad,
So a man's counsel is sweet to his friend.

- *Proverb 27:9*

Someone who knows and understands you,
knows what you need to hear.



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THE CALL
to
BELONG



Belonging

Do not forsake your own friend
or 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 far away.

- *Proverb 27:10*



Belonging

The people with whom you have been "doing life," with whom you have an understood trust, are the ones to whom you should turn in a pinch, not a distant relative, who will only help out of duty.

That friendship matters. Do not forsake it for distant prospects during hard times.



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YOUR INTEGRITY

makes

FRIENDS OF INFLUENCE



Friends of Influence

He who loves purity of heart
And whose speech is gracious,
the king is his friend.
- *Proverb 22:11*

Note this is not false, ulterior, unethical, transactional, or political. Power finds relief in integrity, and can afford tactful friends.



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DON'T RUIN FRIENDSHIP



Don't Ruin Your Own Friendships

One who blesses his friend
with a loud voice
early in the morning,
It will be considered a curse to him.

- *Proverb 27:14*




DON'T TALK TO ME
UNTIL I'VE HAD MY
POTION OF WAKING


THIS IS MY FIRST
CUP OF COFFEE.
DON'T TALK TO ME.


DON'T TALK
TO ME
UNTIL I'VE
HAD MY
MORNING

σκύβαλα


don't even
think about it
really not
a good idea
you may
speak now


A FUN
THING TO DO
IN THE
MORNING
IS NOT
TALK TO ME.


Proverbs
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But Seriously: "Don't Ruin" & Boundaries

Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. …For each one will bear his own load.

- *Galatians 6:2,5*

Like a city that is broken into and without walls
Is a man who has no control over his spirit.

- *Proverb 25:28*



Don't Ruin Others' Friendships

A perverse man spreads strife,
And a slanderer separates intimate friends.
- *Proverb 16:28*

All good of your friendships are delicate,
between two works-in-progress.



Don't Ruin Others' Friendships

"Okay," you may say, "but
I'm not perverse.
I won't slander anyone.
What I want to say is true.
Should I *lie?*
What is this? A cover-up?



Shelter Others' Friendships

- "love covers all transgressions" - 10:12
- "[the] trustworthy conceals a matter" - 11:13
- "the glory of God to conceal a matter" - 25:2
- "love covers a multitude of sins" - 1 Pe. 4:8
- "blessed is he…whose sin is covered!" - Ps. 32:1

"Cover" — כָּסָה(*kāsāh*)

Like clothing in Eden, on drunken Noah



Don't Ruin Others' Friendships

He who conceals a transgression seeks love,
But he who repeats a matter
separates intimate friends.
- *Proverb 17:9*



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DON'T WASTE

your

FRIENDLINESS



Don't Waste Your Friendliness

"the companion of fools will suffer harm" - 13:20

"Leave the presence of a fool, or you will not discern words of knowledge" - 14:7

"Do not...go with a hot-tempered man, or you will learn his ways...a snare for yourself" - 22:24-25

"Do not [desire to be with] evil men...trouble" - 24:1-2

"a companion of gluttons humiliates his father" - 28:7

Everybody needs a friend, but

not everybody needs your friendship.

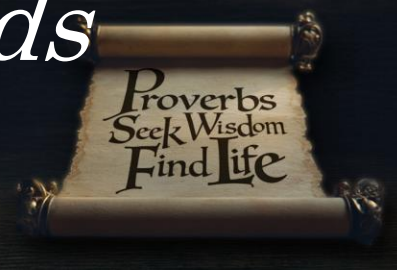


GOD AS IDEAL FRIEND



God is the model friend. *(Slide 1)*

- **Covenantal** (initiator, promise-keeper)
  U-*shape not* N-*shape; others-first attitude*
- Need vs. Math (superabundant provider)
  He plans, prioritizes, and meets need
- Correction (redeemer, sanctifier)
  Futility! He saved us to repurpose us for good; Spirit groans too deeply for words



God is the model neighbor. *(Slide 2)*

- Appreciation (intimacy)
  He knows each hair, thought, motive, tear
- Belonging (adoptive Father, sanctifier)
  Jesus, firstborn of us; Father—prodigal son story; "I have called you friends"
- Influence (appoints kings, reckons hearts)
  God will vindicate our integrity





- Covenant: ask God to help you do Philippians 2
- Fight the Math: Befriend those God shows you
- Sharpen: leave room for curiosity in differences
- Appreciate: ask questions, remember, pray, “root”
- Belong: lose pride, need people, kick off your shoes
- Use influence: Advocate for, and befriend integrity when you see it