

10 Ways to be a Better Friend from Proverbs

Clay Miller/4.10.13

Jesus said, I have called you friends in John 15:15. How does Jesus treat us? That's our best example of what makes a good friend.

#1. **Be Faithful.** Friends do not desert each other when times are bad. Proverbs 27:10 - Do not forsake your friend and the friend of your father, and do not go to your brother's house when disaster strikes you - better a neighbor nearby than a brother far away.

#2. **Keep Secrets.** Friends do not gossip. Proverbs 11:13 - A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret.

#3. **Be Kind.** Friends do not carry jokes or pranks too far. A friend is aware of your SENSITIVE areas. They refrain from SARCASM, MEAN JOKES and EXPOSURES. Proverbs 26:18-19 - Like a madman shooting firebrands or deadly arrows is a man who deceives his neighbor and says, "I was only joking!"

#4. **Don't Enable.** Friends encourage each other to live within their means and do not co-sign for them. Proverbs 17:18 - A man lacking in judgment strikes hands in pledge and puts up security for his neighbor.

#5. **Be Generous.** Friends do not turn away when their friend is in need. Proverbs 3:28 - Do not say to your neighbor, "Come back later; I'll give it tomorrow" - when you now have it with you.

#6. **Quickly Forgive.** Friends do not seek revenge. Proverbs 20:22 - Do not say, "I'll pay you back for this wrong!" Wait for the Lord, and he will deliver you.

#7. **Give Biblical Advice.** Friends do not ask their friends to participate in sin. They look out for each other. They represent Christ well. Proverbs 27:9 - Oil and perfume make the heart glad, So a man's counsel is sweet to his friend.

#8. **Tell the Truth - Even if it is "Bad News."** Friends do not with-hold the truth in order to save the other person's feelings. Proverbs 27:6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.

#9. **Be Unselfish.** Friends look out for the interests of each other. They do not project their own needs onto others or manipulate using guilt. Proverbs 18:1 - A unfriendly man pursues selfish ends.

#10. **Control Your Temper/Don't be a Drama-Queen.** Proverbs 22:24 - Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered, or you may learn his ways and get yourself ensnared.

On August 5, 1936, at the Berlin Olympic Stadium it was a little past nine in the evening. The pole vault event had lasted longer than expected. The final three competitors were Earl Meadows of the United States and two close friends from Japan, Shuhei Nishida and Sueo Oe. Nishida had won a silver medal in the 1932 Los Angeles Games. The bar was at 14 feet 3 1/4 inches, which Earl Meadows cleared on his second try. Nishida and Oe missed all three attempts. The two Japanese continued to jump for second and third place, but the competition ended without a conclusion when it became too dark to continue. "Oe and I went back to the Olympic Village certain we had tied, since we both jumped identical heights," Nishida remembered. (At that time they did not have another tie breaking rule.) The officials decided to award the silver medal to Nishida. They never fully explained their reasoning. Oe was awarded the bronze. Nishida was not happy with the decision. When they got back to Japan both Oe and Nishida decided to cut their medals in half. Then they joined half of the silver medal with half of the bronze medal for each of them. The medals were called the Medals of Eternal Friendship. Soon after Oe was killed in World War II. His medal is on display at the National Stadium in Tokyo. What an unselfish act on the part of a friend.

TIP: Trust in relationships takes time. Meet informally to build relationship trust.