

**Title:** True friendship  
**Pastor:** Fred May  
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**Time:** 18:00



**Proverbs 18:24 (RSV)**

There are friends who pretend to be friends, but there is a friend *who* sticks closer than a brother.

**A. Great friendship is better...**

**1. than “success”**

**Proverbs 15:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> Better is a little with the fear of the LORD, than great treasure with trouble. <sup>17</sup> Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a fatted calf with hatred.

**2. nothing like a friend in need**

**Ecclesiastes 4:10**

For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up.

**3. ... and a reality check!**

**Psalms 41:9 (MSG)**

Even my best friend, the one I always told everything – he ate meals at my house all the time! – has bitten my hand.

**B. The trust conundrum**

**Jeremiah 17:5-10**

<sup>5</sup> Thus says the LORD:

“Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when good comes, but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land which is not inhabited. <sup>7</sup> “Blessed is the man who trusts

in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD. <sup>8</sup> For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, and will

not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit. <sup>9</sup> “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? <sup>10</sup> I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind,

even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings...

**1. the cursed spiral**

friendship → trust → dependency → obsession → destruction

Dependency on people: the promises & power – where they become the basis of confidence

- emotional
- psychological
- spiritual
- material

## 2. emotional dependency

### **Proverbs 3:5-6**

<sup>5</sup> Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

## 3. dangerous excess

- too rushed

### **Proverbs 12:26 (NIV)**

The righteous should choose his friends carefully, for the way of the wicked leads them astray.

- too much

### **Proverbs 25:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> Have you found honey? Eat only as much as you need, lest you be filled with it and vomit.

<sup>17</sup> Seldom set foot in your neighbor's house, lest he become weary of you and hate you.

- too close & comfortable

### **Proverbs 27:14**

He who blesses his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, it will be counted a curse to him.

(Assumed absence of space is ultimate disrespect).