

Message #114

Proverbs 27:5-10

Unfortunately, our perception of what constitutes a good friend is usually not based on Biblical standards. For most people, a good friend is one who will listen to them and agree with them.

A WISE PERSON WILL MAINTAIN PROPER ATTITUDES TOWARD TRUE, WISE FRIENDS AND THEIR COUNSEL.

Dr. Bruce Waltke said real friendship with a fool is impossible (Vol. 2, p. 375).

FRIENDSHIP POINT #1 – A wise person recognizes the value of a friend's rebuke. **27:5**

The point is it is better to have a friend who would openly rebuke you rather than secretly love you. Just as useless and pointless love would be that is hidden, so is a friendship that refuses to rebuke.

FRIENDSHIP POINT #2 – A wise person recognizes the value of a friend's wound. **27:6**

Biblical friendship is not based on an emotional reaction like a kiss, but on honesty and integrity of commitment, which includes rebuke.

FRIENDSHIP POINT #3 – A wise person does not hate a friend's rebuke, but hungers for it. **27:7**

The person who is full and satisfied with himself loathes truth; but one hungry for truth and righteousness loves even bitter rebukes.

FRIENDSHIP POINT #4 – A wise person will not wander away from a friend's rebuke. **27:8**

Contextually, the thing that would cause the man to be agitated would be the rebuke of a friend. The tendency for one told he is wrong is to run, but the wise person stays, listens and learns.

FRIENDSHIP POINT #5 – A wise person rejoices at the healthy counsel of a friend. **27:9**

Heart counsel that is wise from a friend is life-giving, valuable, healthy, and sweet. It is as precious to one wise as oil and perfume.

FRIENDSHIP POINT #6 – A wise person will maintain wise friendships. **27:10**

Three things a wise person will not do: 1) Forsake his own friend; 2) Forsake his father's friend; 3) Lean upon his own family, but lean more upon his friends. Some friendships are better than family ties. We cannot choose our relatives, but we can choose our friends.

The greatest friend any can have is Jesus Christ. He is a forgiving friend to sinners (Luke 7:34). He is a fruit-producing friend to those obedient (John 15:15). He will always counsel His friends to what is right and true. Wise is the person who cultivates a relationship with Him.