**Friend Request – the Art of Real Friendships**

**Who’s Got Your Back?[[1]](#footnote-1)**

3 characteristics of a loyal friend

**I. A Loyal Friend Celebrates Your Victories**

A. Don’t forget that Jonathan was in line to be king

**1 Samuel 17:45-46** - *Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have taunted. This day the Lord will deliver you up into my hands, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you. And I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel,”*

B. To be a loyal friend, you have to avoid the sin of jealousy

**Romans 12:15** - *Rejoice with those who rejoice…*

**Proverbs 27:4** - *Wrath is fierce and anger is a flood, but who can stand before jealousy?*

**James 3:14-16** - *But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.*

C. Learn the art of celebrating with people when they succeed

**1 Thessalonians 5:11** - *Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.*

D. Jesus is this kind of friend

**Luke 21:1-4** - *And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury. And He saw a poor widow putting in two small copper coins. And He said, “Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all of them; for they all out of their surplus put into the offering; but she out of her poverty put in all that she had to live on.”*

**Romans 8:29** - *“…the firstborn of many brethren.”*

**Proverbs 18:21** - *Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.*

**II. A Loyal Friend Holds You Accountable**

A. David invited this kind of accountability

**1 Samuel 20:8** - *Therefore deal kindly with your servant, for you have brought your servant into a covenant of the Lord with you. But if there is iniquity in me, put me to death yourself; for why then should you bring me to your father?*

B. This is another example of how two are better than one

**Ecclesiastes 4:9-10** - *Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up.*

C. Good friends speak honestly with one another

**Proverbs 27:6** - *Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.*

D. Jesus is this kind of friend

**Matthew 16:22-23** - *Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You.” But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s.”*

**John 15:14-16** - *You are My friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.*

**III. A Loyal Friend Protects You from Harm**

A. Jonathan was willing to sacrifice his safety and reputation to watch out for David

**1 Samuel 20:41-42** - *When the lad was gone, David rose from the south side and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed three times. And they kissed each other and wept together, but David wept the more. Jonathan said to David, “Go in safety, inasmuch as we have sworn to each other in the name of the Lord, saying, ‘The Lord will be between me and you, and between my descendants and your descendants forever.’” Then he rose and departed, while Jonathan went into the city.*

B. Jesus is this kind of friend

**Romans 5:7-8** - *For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

**1 John 2:1-2** - *My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.*

1. Dr. Steve Viars [↑](#footnote-ref-1)