

I. Introduction.

- A. You and I are made for friendships; we have friendship needs; our Maker tells us that it is not good for us to be alone (see Gen. 2:18); we all need and want some friends.**
- B. In the end the only thing that will matter is you loved and who loved you.**

II. What Makes a Good Friend?

- A. A good friend knows you – he doesn't just know about you, he knows you well; he knows all about your "peculiarities" and still hangs out.**
- B. A good friend loves you (Prov. 17:17) – friends demonstrate love by "laying down their life" for their friends ...by living for them ...by being there and caring for them.**
- C. A good friend has something in common with you – we can't be a good friend to everyone, but we can be friendly to everyone; we all have "levels of friendships" which are usually based on shared beliefs and/or interests.**
- D. A good friend protects you – the story of Jonathon and David (see 1 Sam. 19:1-7; 20:1-42; and 23:16-18).**
- E. A good friend helps you when you're in trouble – real friends are dependable; they're always around when you need them.**
- F. A good friend brings out the best in you (Prov. 27:17) – you bring out the best in people by recognizing their gifts and talents and encouraging them to be all that they can be.**
- G. A good friend forgives you – sin eventually disrupts every relationship; to restore the relationship, the guilty party must repent and confess his sin and ask to be forgiven; a good friend will forgive.**
- H. A good friend cares about your spiritual well-being – the most important part of life is our spiritual life (see Mark 8:36); the most important thing you can do for a friend who doesn't know Jesus is to help him find Jesus.**

III. Conclusion.

- A. Good friends are hard to find.**
- B. Too often we look for a good friend before we work on being a good friend.**
- C. Are you doing what you need to do to have good friends and be a good friend.?**

