

## **It's time to "MAKE" a friend (part 2)**

Friendship is hard work. It takes time, effort and energy to "make" friends. They aren't like lint that just clings to you when you walk by. Sometimes you have to seek them out, cultivate them, and then care for them to truly make a friend.

We must first have a friendship with God to really know how to be a true friend on earth. But God did not make us to be solitary creatures. He realized that we also needed earthly companionship. He started with animals but quickly realized that it wasn't going to be enough. We definitely need human relationships in our lives.

To basic 3 qualities that we are looking for in others and that we must possess in ourselves to be good friends are:

- Someone you know
- Someone you like
- Someone you can trust

These are the qualities that you are looking for in others but that others are also looking for in you. That Biblical concept of "do unto others as you would have them do unto you" stands true here as well. Be the kind of friend that you want your friends to be to you! If you can live and act by this principle then "making" friends won't be so hard!

One of the greatest Biblical example of friendship was David and Jonathan. In I Samuel 18:1-4 the Bible says that the soul of David and Jonathan was "knit" together. They became such good friends that Jonathan stood up for David against his own father. He loved David, watched out for him, was not jealous, saved his life and in turn David cared for Jonathan's family for the rest of his life. Their friendship overcame great obstacles because they worked hard at making and keeping it.

Here are some keys to making and then keeping friendships.

- Make a friend today. You say "how do I do that". The Bible says in Proverbs 18:24 "be friendly". If you are friendly it's much easier to make friends!
- Work hard to be a "true" friend by being someone that is trusted. That doesn't mean you always agree but when you are entrusted with information be someone who won't share confidential things.
- Stick around when your friends go through tough times. Proverbs 17:17 says that a friend loveth at ALL times and a brother is made for bad times. Don't just hang around people when things are going right in their lives but also when they are going wrong as well!
- Learn to include more than just you and 1 other in your group. Realize that you can NEVER have too many friends so learn to grow your friend garden!
- Learn to listen as much as you talk. Real friendships are places where BOTH people get to talk and BOTH people learn to listen. Sometimes we miss important things in our friends lives because we talk much more than we listen. Remember Job's friends. . .he really just needed them to listen but instead they talked too much!

- Think about what you will say BEFORE you say it. Remember words hurt and wound and you need to stop and think about what you would want others to say to you and how you would want to be talked to.
- Give your friends moments in the spotlight. You don't always have to be the one in the limelight – give your friends time to shine also!
- Spend time with your friends. The greatest gift you can give them is time with you!

Your challenge is simply this. . .

- Call an old friend today and renew an old friendship
- Take time for a friend today
- Think of how you can help a friend in trouble or in need
- Compliment or brag on a friend who has done something great or wonderful
- Make a new friend