

REAL FRIENDS

By: Fountain Hendricks

(Proverbs 18:24)

Receiving a person's friendship is a tremendous gift. If you have the opportunity to have three real friends, you are a blessed person. Friends do not come easy nor are they easy to find. As a matter of fact, many people are incapable of being a real friend because they do not know how to be a friend.

A real friend is **NOT** a person who appeases you. That's a fan. A real friend is **NOT** a person who caters to you. That's a lover. A real friend is **NOT** a person who does what you say. That's an employee. **A REAL FRIEND IS A PERSON WHO IS LOYAL TO YOU.**

A FRIEND WHO IS NOT LOYAL, IS NOT A FRIEND
AT ALL!

THE FOCUS SHOULD BE ON YOU

(Proverbs 18:24)

When a person has claimed to be your friend, their obligation is to be **COMMITTED TO YOU**. Unfortunately, most people do not understand this. We have the tendency to be-friend people who are loyal to our achievements while neglecting our character. When people are loyal to what you have instead of who you are, they are **IMPOSTORS**. A real friend is loyal to **YOU**.

Real friends may not love everything about you. They are **LOYAL** to you. Love and loyalty **DO NOT** belong in the same category as it pertains to friendship. Here's why. When a person loves you, they are fond of you.

However, when a person is loyal they have a **COMMITMENT** to you. Unfortunately, many individuals have invited the wrong people into their lives because they did not understand the difference between love and loyalty. Think about this.

- Can you be loyal to your job and hate it? Yes.
- Can you be a loyal parent and hate your children's ways? Yes.

Love will **NOT** establish authentic friendships. **LOYALTY** will. Love is an important factor. However, loyalty is a **NECESSITY**. When love walks out the door, commitment will stand still.

When love gets tired, commitment will stand strong.
When love gives up, commitment will press on. When love turns away, commitment will hold your hand. When love gets old, commitment will refresh itself.

If you've had friends who betrayed you, it wasn't because they did not love you. They were not committed to you. If you've had friends who abandoned you in hard times it wasn't because they did not love you. The reality is, they were never committed to you. When a person has made a

conscience decision to be committed to **YOU**, they have vowed to stand with **YOU** through good and bad times.

When you have a real friend, **YOU BECOME THEIR ONLY FOCUS!** You will not have many friends in life. A multitude of people are **NOT WILLING** to focus their energy, efforts and time on one person.

WISDOM NOTE ~ (A selfish person can never be a real friend.) Philippians 2:3-4 says, *"When you do things, do not let selfishness or pride be your guide. Instead, be humble and give more honor to others than to yourselves. Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others."*

EVIDENCE OF A REAL FRIEND:

- A real friend stands by **YOU** when everyone else has disappeared.
- A real friend tells you the **TRUTH**.

- A real friend is committed to you **IN-SPITE** of what you do.
- A real friend will **SUPPORT** you when you are right and correct you when you are wrong.
- A real friend will **TAKE CARE** of you when you can't take care of yourself.

Do not give your pearls to swine by being loyal to people who are not loyal to you.

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