

Loyal Friendship

Supplemental Resources

Loyal: –adjective

1. faithful to one's sovereign, government, or state: a loyal subject.
2. faithful to one's oath, commitments, or obligations: to be loyal to a vow.
3. faithful to any leader, party, or cause, or to any person or thing conceived as deserving fidelity: a loyal friend.
4. characterized by or showing faithfulness to commitments, vows, allegiance, obligations, etc.: loyal conduct.

Friendship: –noun

1. A person whom one knows, likes, and trusts.
2. A person whom one knows; an acquaintance.
3. A person with whom one is allied in a struggle or cause; a comrade.
4. One who supports, sympathizes with, or patronizes a group, cause, or movement:
friends of the clean air movement.
5. **Friend** A member of the Society of Friends; a Quaker.

Word History: A *friend* is a lover, literally. The relationship between Latin *amīcus* "friend" and *amō* "I love" is clear, as is the relationship between Greek *philos* "friend" and *phileō* "I love." In English, though, we have to go back a millennium before we see the verb related to *friend*. At that time, *frēond*, the Old English word for "friend," was simply the present participle of the verb *frēon*, "to love." The Germanic root behind this verb is **frī-*, which meant "to like, love, be friendly to." Closely linked to these concepts is that of "peace," and in fact Germanic made a noun from this root, **frithu-*, meaning exactly that. Ultimately descended from this noun are the personal names *Frederick*, "peaceful ruler," and *Siegfried*, "victory peace." The root also shows up in the name of the Germanic deity *Frigg*, the goddess of love, who lives on today in the word *Friday*, "day of Frigg," from an ancient translation of Latin *Veneris diēs*, "day of Venus."

Loyal Friendship

Supplemental Resources

Philippians 2: 1-11 (NIV)

Imitating Christ's Humility

¹If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ²then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

⁵Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

⁶Who, being in very nature ^[a] God,
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,
⁷but made himself nothing,
taking the very nature ^[b] of a servant,
being made in human likeness.

⁸And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:1-11 (NLT)

Have the Attitude of Christ

¹ Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? ² Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.

³ Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

⁵ You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

Loyal Friendship

Supplemental Resources

⁶ Though he was God,^[a]
he did not think of equality with God
as something to cling to.
⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges^[b];
he took the humble position of a slave^[c]
and was born as a human being.
When he appeared in human form,^[d]
⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God
and died a criminal's death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor
and gave him the name above all other names,
¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:1-11 (MSG)

He Took on the Status of a Slave

¹⁻⁴ If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care— then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.

⁵⁻⁸ Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion.

⁹⁻¹¹ Because of that obedience, God lifted him high and honored him far beyond anyone or anything, ever, so that all created beings in heaven and on earth—even those long ago dead and buried—will bow in worship before this Jesus Christ, and call out in praise that he is the Master of all, to the glorious honor of God the Father.

Loyal Friendship

Supplemental Resources

John 15:13 (NIV)

¹³Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

John 15:13 (NLT)

¹³ There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 15:13 (MSG)

¹¹⁻¹⁵"I've told you these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature. This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends. You are my friends when you do the things I command you. I'm no longer calling you servants because servants don't understand what their master is thinking and planning. No, I've named you friends because I've let you in on everything I've heard from the Father.

Matthew 6:14-15 (NIV)

¹⁴For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Matthew 6:14-15 (NLT)

¹⁴ "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Matthew 6:14-15 (MSG)

¹⁴⁻¹⁵"In prayer there is a connection between what God does and what you do. You can't get forgiveness from God, for instance, without also forgiving others. If you refuse to do your part, you cut yourself off from God's part.

Loyal Friendship

Supplemental Resources

Ruth – In a Nutshell

The story of Ruth is a narrative set during the times when the Judges ruled over Israel whose purpose is to depict God's redemptive plan for man, as well as give a snapshot of the lineage of King David and thus Jesus. Naomi, Ruth, and Orpah were widows traveling to Israel from Moab, the

home of Ruth and Orpah. Naomi's husband had left Israel because of a famine but died in Moab and his sons soon died also, leaving two more widows. Ruth desired to follow Naomi and merge into the people of Israel, while Orpah went back to her hometown. Ruth not only took up the culture, but she also accepted Jehovah as her God. As a widow, the law made provision for Ruth to glean in the fields. Her relative, Boaz, noticed her in his field and made sure his workers left extra handfuls for Ruth. Naomi instructed Ruth to go and lay at the feet of Boaz while he was asleep, and when he awoke she was to inform him that he was her kinsman redeemer. Boaz accepted his responsibility and they were married.

Ruth 1:16-18 (NIV)

¹⁶ But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. ¹⁷ Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me." ¹⁸ When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

Ruth 1:16-18 (NLT)

¹⁶ But Ruth replied, "Don't ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. ¹⁷ Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!" ¹⁸ When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she said nothing more.

Ruth 1:16-19 (MSG)

¹⁶⁻¹⁷ But Ruth said, "Don't force me to leave you; don't make me go home. Where you go, I go; and where you live, I'll live. Your people are my people, your God is my god; where you die, I'll die, and that's where I'll be buried, so help me God—not even death itself is going to come between us!"

¹⁸⁻¹⁹ When Naomi saw that Ruth had her heart set on going with her, she gave in. And so the two of them traveled on together to Bethlehem.

Loyal Friendship

Supplemental Resources

David & Jonathan

- Saul is king
- The LORD rejects him
- Saul is tormented by an “evil spirit from the LORD”
- Saul asks his attendants to find a musician to help calm him
- They bring in David
- Saul likes David and he makes David his right hand man
- Israelites go to war and David is going back and for the between tending to Saul and watching Jesse’s sheep
- Jonathan is fond of David from watching him – they become friends
- Saul becomes suspicious of David after hearing the reports of the celebrations
- Saul tries to kill David by throwing a spear
- Saul sends David to the army
- Saul yanks David around with marriage (almost a game) all the while growing to fully hate David –I Sam 18:17-30
- Saul tells Jonathan to kill David
- Jonathan warns David and goes to talk to his dad to calm him down
- Saul says come home David – then one day tries to kill him again
- David flees
- Michal plays a trick on Saul’s men
- David goes to Samuel
- Saul freaks out when he finds David and Samuel
- David and Jonathan come up with a plan to see if David is really safe or should run
- Saul confronts Jonathan and confesses that he knows about their friendship and plans and tries to kill Jonathan
- Jonathan and David realize David is no longer safe
- They have an incredibly emotional parting but pledge to be friends forever
- Some time passes (I Samuel 21-23) and Jonathans visits David and they make a covenant
- That was the last time they saw each other