

CONNECTING WITH FRIENDS
#SermonFriends
The Power of Connecting Part 3
Dr. Mark Jackson - September 16, 2018

Proverbs 27:9b ...a sweet friendship refreshes the soul. (MSG)

Six Ways To Connect

1. BE COURAGEOUS AND TAKE THE INITIATIVE

2 Timothy 1:7 For the Holy Spirit, God's gift, does not want you to be afraid of people, but to be wise and strong, and to love them and enjoy being with them. (LB)

Psalms 56:11 I trust in God. I will not be afraid. What can people do to me? (NCV)

2. BE CONSIDERATE OF THEIR NEEDS

1 Corinthians 1:10 I have a serious concern to bring up with you, my friends, using the authority of Jesus, our Master. I'll put it as urgently as I can: You must get along with each other. You must learn to be considerate of one another, cultivating a life in common. (MSG)

Proverbs 17:9 You will keep your friends if you forgive them, but you will lose your friends if you keep talking about what they did wrong. (CEV)

3. BE CONSTRUCTIVE WITH YOUR WORDS

Ephesians 4:29 Do not use harmful words, but only helpful words, the kind that build up and provide what is needed, so that what you say will do good to those who hear you. (TEV)

1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. (NIV)

4. BE CANDID ABOUT PROBLEMS

Proverbs 24:26 An honest answer is a sign of true friendship. (TEV)

Proverbs 27:5-6a A truly good friend will openly correct you.⁶You can trust a friend who corrects you... (CEV)

5. BE CONFIDENTIAL WITH INFORMATION

Proverbs 11:13 A gossip tells everything, but **a true friend will keep a secret.** (CEV)

Proverbs 16:28 A troublemaker plants seeds of strife; **gossip separates** the best of friends. (NLT)

6. BE COMMITTED TO THE RELATIONSHIP

Proverbs 17:17a A **friend loves** you **all the time.** (ICB)

Proverbs 18:24 A man who has friends must himself **be friendly,** But there is a friend who **sticks closer** than a brother. (NKJV)

John 15:13-14 The **greatest love** you can **show** is to **give your life for your friends.**
¹⁴ You are my friends if you obey my commandments. (GW)