

**God's Wisdom for Our Lives – Week 22**  
**The Wise Friend – Friendships In Reference to God**

**Warm-Up:**

1. What are some of the blessings that come from friendships?
2. What are some of the challenges?
3. What makes a friend a “good friend” according to worldly standards?
4. What makes a friend a “good friend” according to biblical standards?
5. What do we usually mean when we talk about “best friends”?
  - a. What can be wrong with the concept of “best friends”?

**Read Prov 13:20...** “Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools suffers harm.”

6. What does it mean to “walk with the wise”?
  - a. Practically speaking, how do you “walk with the wise”?
  - b. According to Proverbs 13:20, what are the results that accompany walking with the wise?
    - i. Can this happen by simply being around wise people?
7. What does it mean to be a “companion of fools”?
  - a. Practically speaking, what would it look like to be “a companion of fools”?
    - i. What are some of the ways this could happen at school or at work?
    - ii. What are some of the ways this can happen in the church?
8. According to Proverbs 13:20, what are the results that accompany being “a companion of fools”?
  - a. What kind of harm can we suffer when we “graze with fools”?

**Read Prov 14:7...** “Leave the presence of a fool, for there you do not meet words of knowledge.”

9. What is the command in proverbs 14:7?
  - a. Does this mean we cannot associate with foolish people or that we awkwardly flee from people who are foolish?
  - b. Does this mean we should not be friendly to a fool?
  - c. Is there a selfish, self-righteous, and ungodly way we can apply these texts?

10. What is the warning in Pr 14:7 for those who continue to share the same manner of life with the fool?
- Why is it hard to perceive the words of knowledge when we are grazing with fools?
  - Why is the temptation to accompany fools sometimes so strong?
  - Why is our desire for approval of others so strong?
11. How can we be a friend to someone who is walking as a fool?

**Read Proverbs 27:9...** "Oil and perfume make the heart glad, and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel."

12. According to Proverbs 27:9, what makes a friend "sweet"?
13. How does a friend give earnest counsel? And why is that sweet?

**Read Proverbs 27:5-6...** "Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses".

14. What is an "open rebuke"? Why is it better than "hidden love"?
- What might it look like to provide an "open rebuke" rather than hide our love?
15. What are we afraid of happening when we counsel a friend or give "an open rebuke"?
16. What does it mean that "an enemy multiplies kisses"?
- Practically speaking, how might we be tempted to do this?
17. What does this verse teach us about how to be a friend?
18. What does it teach us about what we should expect from friendships?
19. Reflect on your friendships...
- Are you more focused on what they provide you? Or how you can bless them?
  - Is your sweetness coming from your earnest counsel? Or are you multiplying kisses?
  - Are you wanting friends who love you enough to "faithfully wound you"?