

Friends/Enemies

Principle –We are to strive to live at peace with everyone we meet; some will become good friends, some will just be acquaintances, some will show dislike for us, and some will - of their choosing – become enemies.

Key Scripture:

Romans 12:18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, **live at peace** with everyone.

Luke 6:27-28 But I tell you who hear me: **Love your enemies**, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

Romans 12:19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; **I will repay**," says the Lord.

Proverbs 17:17 A **friend** loves at all times,...

Proverbs 27:9 Do not forsake your **friend**....

Comment

Our goal is to live at peace with everyone around us. Even when others choose to treat us otherwise, God clearly challenges us to continue to treat them as if they are friends. It is not our business to seek revenge, God promises he will repay in his own time and manner. The Scripture clearly indicates that real friends are committed to each other at all times, they will not intentionally do things to hurt or harm each other.

Application in daily life??

- ♦ Friends are important at every stage of our lives, but for children, finding and maintaining true friends is often a difficult and painful process. Our children need support and training in how to develop and maintain good friends.
- ♦ Teach your children the characteristics of true friendship – they don't run their friends down to others - or only be friends when it suits, and they don't abandon their friend who is in need. In short, they are faithful and consistent.
- ♦ Train our children not to seek revenge when hurt – but to leave it with God to settle the balance if, and when, He chooses. If others choose to play "enemies", support your children in learning how to hand the desire for revenge over to God.

Our example? Do we have true friends? Do we do good to and pray for those we don't like or who persecute us, and are we genuinely able to trust that God will level the score with those who have hurt or wronged us??