

Sparks & Noise & Elbow Grease

◀ It's work, making friendships that help us keep our promises ▶

→ Proverbs 27:6, 9, 17

→ **Sentence Sermon: God uses friendship to make us stronger and more godly. It is His tool to shape and form and strengthen us. Use it wisely.**

I. Injuries that _____ us (Proverbs 27:6)

- A. Hebrew “antithetic parallelism” in this verse
 - 1. Contrast is used to emphasize a truth
 - 2. The wounds a friend inflicts contrasted with the kisses of an enemy
- B. Friends are willing to do painful surgery, if necessary
 - 1. When something wrong with the body, surgery may be necessary
 - 2. Surgery hurts!!! But the end result is healing
- C. Honesty is most likely to be welcomed from a friend

II. Instructions that _____ us (Proverbs 27:9)

- A. Hebrew “synthetic parallelism” in this verse
 - + Positive comparison, unlike contrast of “antithetical parallelism”
- B. The earnest counsel of a friend should bring joy to our hearts
- C. A friend’s instruction brings pleasantness
 - 1. All need a friend who has no selfish motives in the friendship
 - 2. A friend who wants to help us be all we can be is a treasure

III. Instruments that _____ us (Proverbs 27:17)

- A. Hebrew “synonymous parallelism” refers to two things as the same
- B. A true friend looks for ways to make his/her friend better, sharper, stronger, more capable, successful, etc.
 - 1. It may mean asking penetrating questions about his/her life
 - 2. It might include gentle but firm correction when she/he needs it
 - 3. It also means allowing the friend to do the same with us

C. The sharpening process is not _____

- 1. It can be quite noisy
- 2. It almost surely will make sparks fly from time to time
- 3. It will likely take some hard work, some “elbow grease”

THE ABCS OF FRIENDSHIP

by Cara Lyden

A lways be honest	N ever stop praying for them
B e there when they need you	O ffer to help
C heer them on	P raise them honestly
D on't look for their faults	Q uietly disagree
E very chance you get, call	R eassure them when they begin to doubt
F orgive them	S ay you're sorry when you need to
G et together often	T alk frequently
H ave faith in them	U se good judgment
I nclude them	V alue their honesty even when it hurts
J ust listen	W alk in their trust by telling the truth in love
K now their dreams	X -ray yourself before suggesting corrections
L ove them unconditionally	Y our words count
M ake them feel special ↗	Z ip your lip when told a secret

Promises Worth Keeping Prayer:

Lord, I want a growing relationship with You. I'm tired of my broken promises to You. Guide me to godly friends who will help me remain pure and honor my priorities. Open my eyes to hidden prejudices in my life. Open my heart to the needs of my church and its leaders. Teach me to reflect your love in the world around me. Help me today to live what I say I believe. Amen.