**Relationship Topic** – Qualities of a Godly Best Friend hearwelldone.org

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| What Kind of Best Friend does God want you to be?  What kind of best friend does God want you to have?    We are all growing in our relationship with the LORD, and in how we treat others.  God tells us to love one another, to not keep a list of wrongs or mistakes, to be patient and forgiving.  So while you will never find **or be** a perfect best friend, there are some things that are important when choosing who we spend the majority of our time with.  Who we spend the most time with will influence us and our relationship with God.  Choose Best Friends who are Godly, and encourage them in the LORD.  What should a best friend look like?   **#1  They Walk in the FEAR OF THE LORD**  **a) They** Love God – and Hate Sin.    b) They Love God so much that they would never do anything to displease or disappoint Him.   c) They dis-associate from all Frienemies.  Those who appear to be friends, but war against your soul (worldly influencers).  d) They refuse to participate in any wickedness, not even looking at it.  Their feet always run to righteousness.  **#2  They are Immediate and Complete Obeyers and Always Point you to Obedience to Christ!**   a) They are a 100% good influence on you, they encourage you to obey God daily.  b) The counsel they give you is not worldly wisdom, it lines up with God’s Word.  c) They are Provokers - to love and good works.  They challenge you to live righteously.  And will call you on behaviors that do not represent Jesus or Godliness - so you can be blessed by God.   d) They are a walking example of what a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ is. |

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| **#3  They Practice Complete Honesty**  a) They are always honest, they respect authority, they never deceive or twist the truth.  b) They always encourage you to be completely truthful - so God can bless you.  c) They will not flatter you, but tell you what you need to hear.  **#4  They are Quick to Repent**  a) When confronted with sin in their life, they humbly and quickly repent, they do not make excuses or shift the blame, they make things right with God and with those they have wronged.  b) They waste no time in turning from their sin.  They don’t delay.  c) They confess and seek forgiveness & restoration – even if it’s embarrassing to them.  d) They turn completely, a 180, demonstrating the fruit of repentance, not doing it again.  **#5  They are Loyal**  a) Best Friends are inseparable.  Anything happens; they are the first to know.  They share everything.  They always know that the other is doing, and often what they're thinking.  b) They put you above themselves, and your desires above theirs – they are selfless, not selfish. They are happy when you succeed, not jealous.  c) They never make fun of you or embarrass you, or put you down to make themselves look or feel better.  They don’t manipulate you to do what they want, or try to guilt you into spending more time with them or doing things for them.   They protect you and your reputation in the eyes of others.   d) They make you a priority, not other things or other people.  They are there for you.  e) They will defend you in front of others and not let anyone speak negatively about you.  f) They will resist others’ attempts to undermine your relationship.  They will stick with you. |

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| **#6  They are Diligent**  a) They are successful, focused and fully obeying what God is calling them to do.  b) They challenge you to Get Better at the things God is calling you to do, by their example.   **Does your Best Friend – look like this?**   If they do not have the fear of the LORD, they cannot be blessed by God.  Neither will you be, if you associate with them.  You will suffer the same judgment that God sends on them.   Do they hate evil? - or are they easily influenced by it?  If they are not obeyers, **you will become like them**, they will turn you away from the LORD.  If they do not practice honesty, they are not of God, because He is Truth, and cannot lie.  They won’t hear from God, so the counsel they give you will not be from God.  God will oppose them, and you with them.  **Do You look like this?**   Go down the list.  **Are you** each one of these things to your best friend?  What is God calling you to do, **to become** a Godly best friend?  Is there an area that you need to repent and change?   Ask God to help you and DO IT IMMEDIATELY.    Do you have friends especially a best friend that doesn’t really live by these qualities, or has a different set of values? **God has a better best friend for you**.  If they are not willing to change, you must leave them behind, or you cannot walk in the Fear of the Lord.  One day, God will give you another best friend – one that you will marry.  Become a Godly Best Friend now.  Make sure that anyone with whom you pursue marriage lives their life with these qualities.   If not – they are not the one for you.   That marriage cannot be blessed by God.   Ask God to help you each day **to walk in the Fear of the LORD**, to fully obey, to be completely honest, quick to repent, to be loyal and diligent.  Ask God for a friend like this, and while you are waiting – Be One!  Encourage all of your friends to walk in the joy of complete obedience to God.  His ways are very different from the way the world lives.  **If your friends look like the world, they shouldn’t be your friends**.  Walk with those who are walking with God – and encourage them in the Lord! |

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