

SWM BOOKLET SERIES

***TRUE
BIBLE
FRIENDSHIP***

**A Lecture To Leaders
At The Bill Rice Ranch
By**

DR. BILL RICE III

**Bill Rice Ranch
Murfreesboro, Tennessee**



**Teaching & Training
With Bible Principles**

MB08 Friendship

Bible Friendship

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Introduction

By Ted Camp, SWM

While on staff at the Bill Rice Ranch for twenty years, I learned **wisdom** from the founder, **Dr. Bill Rice, Sr.** and how to have a “**heart**” for the deaf from **Dr. Cathy Rice**, but I learned **Bible principles** from **Dr. Bill Rice III**. I have learned that preferences and policies change but not Bible principles. We now seek to apply these important principles in our Silent Word Ministries. One of the principles taught by Bill Rice III to leaders and staff was “**Bible Friendship.**”

This answers the questions:

“**Who is a good friend?**

Who is not a good friend.”

Let's see
what the Bible says
about **friendship.**

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Who is a good friend? Who is not a good friend?

A Friend is always loyal no matter what? NO!

Example: One pastor said, "I will continue supporting that missionary because he is my friend. It does not matter what he does." Another pastor stated, "If you are **my friend**, you will always be **loyal** to me no matter what happens." Well, I was able to tell both these pastors that a true friend is not one who condones wrongs, but confronts them. There is **much more** to friendship than just love and faithfulness. A **true friend** will do what is right and best for you, even though it may be painful. Always remember the Lord and others are also involved in your friendship. **Illustration:** This principle also applies to your children. You do not correct children because they do wrong, but you correct them so they will not do wrong again. The need is to keep them going in the way they should go (Proverbs 22:6). Ignoring wrong actions is not friendship. When friends violate Scriptures, laws, or morals, they should be confronted, not condoned. A friend will always do what is best for his friend, even though it may hurt him at the time. Later he will thank you. When you confront, be prepared to hear, "**I thought you were my friend.**" **Well, you are being true friend!**

A Friend should always agree with you? NO!

Examples: The story of David, Uriah and Joab (II Samuel 11) is a good example of **misplaced friendship**. David planned to kill Uriah by having his friend Joab send him to the front of the battle. David asked Joab his friend to do something unethical. Joab blindly and unquestionably did as David requested. Was Joab being a good friend? **No!** Joab should have been a good friend and stated, "**This is wrong, it is against God, and I will not do it.**" Joab could have **prevented** David friend from facing more trouble in his predicament. There are always consequences of bad choices. A good friend will do what is right and best to help his friend to maintain his integrity. Agreeing does not make you a good friend. When a friend strays, you should help him **return** to the right path. Help him to see the error of his ways. Sometimes it is tough to be a good friend, but someone must warn him of his ways. Use Scriptures that condemn his actions. All good Christians should be willing to change to Bible principles. You cannot help someone who does not want help. If they refuse, **you** will not later have regrets, because you tried to help. Sometimes it is not **who** is right, but **what** is right!

(Note: Joab was guilty of "**abetting**" David in a crime. **Abet** is to encourage, assist, or not prevent someone who you know is committing a crime. **Both** were guilty of murder). Was Joab a good friend? **NO!**

P.S. Both pastors prayerfully considered their friends and finally confronted them. Are you really a good friend when you stand and watch your friend ruin and destroy his life? **NO!** You would not just stand and watch your children ruin their lives, and you should not be silent and let it happen to your friend. **Be a true Bible friend in need and deed!** - TC

What is True Bible Friendship?

A Lecture at the Bill Rice Ranch by Bill Rice III
To Leaders of Deaf Ministries

Jesus said, "This is my commandment,
that ye love one another, as I have loved you.
Greater love hath no man than this,
that a man lay down his life for his friends.
Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you.
Henceforth I call ye not servants;
for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth:
but I have called you friends;
For all things that I have heard of my father
I have made known unto you.
Ye have not chosen me,
but I have chosen you, and ordained you,
that ye should go and bring forth fruit,
and that your fruit should remain:
That whatsoever ye shall ask
of the Father in my name, he may give it you.
These things I command you,
that ye love one another."

-- John 15:12-17

Introduction

Let me encourage you to come with your brain in gear for these sessions. This morning I would like to deal with something to be a help. I'd like for us to glean things, and get things this week that will be a help to us specifically in the ministry but also in our Christian life; so that we be what we should for Christ. I'd like to talk about **friendship**; what constitutes being a friend, and how a person becomes a friend and what it means to be a friend. In fact, I think it's important for us to understand that when you seek to work with people, deaf or hearing, **it's important for you to understand the Bible position of a friend.**

Now to see what a friend is, let me give you if I can,
four things that a friend is not.

1. Friendship is not Based on Common Enemies - I am not your friend because you and I have a common enemy. It is interesting that in Luke 23:12, Pilate and Herod became friends. In fact the verse says that, they were friends that day. These were mortal or normal enemies, Herod and Pontius Pilate, but they became friends because of the problem that they faced with the Lord Jesus. They had a common enemy. Actually, the common enemy may have been the Jewish people, because remember Pilate didn't want to have anything to do with Jesus, he didn't want to make the decision so he sent them to Herod. Herod had fun with the Lord Jesus, at Christ's expense, and then sent him back to Pilate. The Bible says that they two became friends that day. In other words, they came in league one with the other. It has nothing to do with legitimate friendship but they worked together. You are not the friend of someone because you have common enemies. I think a **great illustration** of that would be the United States and Russia who were allies in World War II but in no sense of the word have the two countries been friends. Do you see that? So a friend is not a person that you know who hates the same people you hate or who dislikes the same people you dislike.

2. Friendship is not Based on Common Desires - You don't have a friend and you are not a friend because you and he or you and she like the same things. Friendship is not based on common desires. **In James 1:15-16** the Bible says, "**then when lust hath conceived it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished bringeth forth death. Do not err my beloved brethren.**" Quite often we have in common the same desires, that is, any two of God's people. Certainly deaf workers have a natural yen for "people of like precious faith," such as other people who work with the deaf. We have common desires, but that doesn't mean that I'm a friend to you because we want the same things. And I **mention James 1:15-16** because quite often common desires can be centered around things that are sinful. Suppose **you** want to do something that really, as far as character is concerned, is

wrong. And I also want to do something, as far as character is concerned, that is wrong. Scripturally, it's wrong. It's improper. We might form an alliance and consider ourselves friends, when in fact we're not. It's interesting and it always fascinates me, we have 600 plus campers here this week which is wonderful. I thank God for that, it's just wonderful. I have noticed that It doesn't take a full day for a deaf boy from Kansas and a deaf girl from West Virginia, both of whom hate their parents and both of whom are rebels both become friends quickly. It just amazes me. It's just like they have radar, you know, and it looks out for other people that want what they want. Also I have noticed that one of the biggest problems you have in a Christian school is the bad kids aren't influenced by the good kids but they're influenced by the bad kids, the kids that are just like they are. The same thing happens in a public school system and in a church. You have little pockets of people that gather together in a church. Why? Because they have the same kind of desires. I'm not your friend because we desire or do the same things.

3. Friendship is not Based on Permissivism. I'm his friend and he's my friend because he understands me and he lets me be me. I say this kindly but firmly, that junk is from the world. It is not in the Bible. God's people ought to have nothing to do with it. This idea of "you know, if you love me you love me for what I am and you'll understand me." That's a confusion of two separate issues. You are not a person's friend, at all because you permit him to practice wrong principles and he is not your friend because he permits you to do as you please. **That's not what a friend is.** A friend is not one who "lets" you do what you please. Are you with me? A friend is not one who permits. That's not friendship at all. the Bible says, "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother" (Proverbs 18:24). It is saying, if a man would have friends, he'll be broken in pieces. That's literally what it says, you can look it up and study it if you'd like to, if that sounds a little strange to you. It says, **If a man would have friends, he would be broken in pieces.** What the passage says is, **if a man would have friends, he will be broken in pieces.** The idea is, if you want the approval of people, you're "had."

As an example, think of a **teenager** who says, "I can't wear that. I can't dress that way." Why not? "What would everybody think?" You got the picture? Now the same thing that teenagers do, adults do. The deal is, "Well I can't do that. I wouldn't be considered a friend." No! Jesus said in the verses which we read, "Ye are my friends, if you do." Here's an interesting thing. Notice the Lord Jesus did not say, "I am your friend, if I do," because he always does. Do what? He does what's right. The Lord Jesus does what's right. Christ is always your friend but the Lord Jesus does not always permit, does he? Have you ever prayed like this and said, (I hope not), "Lord, you're my friend, so what's so bad about my getting drunk?" No, the very fact that he is your friend is a restraint. Do you see that?

So friendship is not based on permissivism. A friend is one who does what's right and asks you to do what's right. A friend is one who says, "**No, you can't do that.**" It's sad how we get caught up in the world's theology. A youngster at camp misbehaves and you grab him by the left elbow and say, "Hey, stop that. No, no, no. Bad, bad, bad, stop, stop, stop." And somebody says, "Why don't you be more friendly?" The problem is he **doesn't understand** what friendship is.

Do I love my kids? Yes! Do I ever spank my kids? Yes, I have. In fact, Proverbs teaches if you don't discipline your children it's because you hate them. The world teaches, "If you do discipline your kids it's because you hate them." The world is always diametrically opposed to what the bible teaches and the Bible teaches that a friend is a person that restrains. In other words, friendship is not permissivism, it is exactly the opposite.

4. Friendship is not based on the whims of others. Since friendship is not a matter of permissivism, then I don't have to live my life worried about the whims, the wishes, the desires or the directions of others. When you believe something is right, it is wrong for you to say, "Yeah, but, what will they think at the Ranch if I did this?" That's not the point. Let me add, you cannot always guarantee that you will have friends, but you can always be one. It's not my place in life to have friends.

I got a letter from a fellow who disagreed with me about something this summer. He said, "The day will come when you'll need friends." Well, I'd always like to have friends, but I can't control that. I can't control whether or not I get them, I can just control whether or not I am one. Do you understand that? See, you may not be my friend, but I will be your friend. Jesus said, **"Ye are my friends, if ye"**. However, he's already their friend. The Lord Jesus did what was right so I can ask the Lord to help me do what's right, to be a friend. I can always be one but I can't always have them. It's not my job to make friends, it's my job to be one. It's my responsibility to be a friend. So friendship is **not based on common enemies**, it's not based on **common desires**, it's not based on **permissivism** and it's not based on the **whims of others**.

I don't know about you, but that's a relief to me. Isn't it wonderful to know that in order to be a friend, I don't have to be worried twenty-four hours a day about what other people think, do, say, act, like or dislike? That's not the point here. The point is, a friend is a person who does what's right and encourages others to do right. Now We've seen what a **friend is not**, now let's see **what is a true friend**.

Let me give you six things that makes a true friend:

1. A Friend Loves - Read John chapter 15, taking notice of verses 12, 13 and 17. **Verse 12, "This is my commandment that ye love one another."** **Verse 13, "Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends."** **Verse 17, "These things I command you that you love one another."** So a friend loves. In I Corinthians 13 we have an expression of love. If I said to you this morning, "Where would you find in the Bible a definition of love?" Most of us would say I Corinthians 13. That's where the Bible says **"Love does no evil, it's compassionate, it's kind, it's longsuffering."** But actually the definition of love is found in **Romans 13** rather than I Corinthians 13. Let's look at Romans 13, verses 8 -10. I learned this from Evangelist Jack Mount, a staff member of the Ranch. This has been a real help to me and I hope it will be of help to you.

A definition of love in Romans 13.
If I said to you, "Give me a definition of love."
What would you answer?

"Love is _____."

What does the Bible teach about love?

**"Owe no man anything but to love one another.
For he that loveth another fulfilleth the law.
For this, thou shalt not commit adultery,
thou shalt not kill, thou shalt not steal,
thou shalt not bear false witness, thou shalt not covet
and if there be any other commandment
it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely,
thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.
Love worketh no ill to his neighbor,
therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law."**

-- Romans 13:8

So there's the definition. Here is what he's saying, "Look, don't commit adultery. Don't steal your neighbor's wife, your neighbor's husband. Don't steal. Don't kill. Don't covet. Love your neighbor." What do you mean by "love your neighbor?" He says here, "Love is the fulfilling of the law." **What is love then?** Love is doing what's right by the person you love. If I love you, I do what is right by you. Love is not an emotion. It evokes emotions, but it is not an emotion. It brings about emotions. But love is simply doing what's right. So the Bible says in friendship, you're to love and you're to love people.

**"Greater love hath no man than this.
This commandment I leave that ye love one another."**

What's the Bible saying there? The Bible is saying that I need to do right by you. I'm supposed to love you. Do you see that? By the way, I don't have to conjure it up. I don't have to feel good about it. Feelings are the caboose.

What I Need to do is What is Right - When I do what's right, then the caboose will come. We have the feeling that love is an emotion. **No!** The emotion comes when you do what's right. If I say to you, "listen, you need to love those kids upstairs." Then what we tend to think is, I need to go upstairs and I need to get a kind of milky, milk-toast sort of feeling in my heart.

Well, what if you don't have it? I don't care if you have it or not. Let's do right by those young people. You do right by those young people, and you do it for a while and you will find the emotion that follows. You can't conjure an emotion unless you are a hypocrite, but you can do what's right. You can say, "All right Lord. What's right? What am I supposed to do?" And then do right by it. So the Bible says, friendship demands that we love people. **They may not love you but you can love them.**

2. A Friend is One Who is Willing to do What is Right - Look in **John chapter 15, "Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you."** So a friend is one who is willing to do what's right. **Number one**, a friend loves; **number two**, a friend is willing to do what's right. Suppose one of my kids misbehaves and needs to be corrected. If I am a friend, I will correct him. Suppose you misbehave at camp. Is it an act of non-friendship for me to say, "Hey, don't do that?" Is that improper? **No!** **"You are my friends if you do whatsoever I command you."** So now here again you have to look at that from the other side of the verse. I am a friend if I do what's right. Now put the two together. I just love people, that's doing what's right by them. I need to be a friend to people; that's doing what's right by them.

3. A Friend is Willing to Sacrifice for What is Right - John 15:13, **"Greater love hath no man than this than a man lay down his life for his friends."** Now that's obvious sacrifice, but there are lesser sacrifices that friends need to make every day. We tend to think that if we are friends everything should be smooth and never a problem with anything. That's not the case at all. If I want to be a friend I need to love people. If I want to be a friend I need to do what's right. If I want to be a friend I need to sacrifice to be a friend. If you're going to be a friend, it's going to hurt now and then. Wouldn't you suggest that laying down your life for someone else would hurt? Suppose somebody said, "Whoa, I was going to be a friend but I didn't know it was going to require this kind of sacrifice." I'm not willing to give this kind of sacrifice." Then you weren't a friend to begin with. **A friend is willing to sacrifice.**

4. A Friend Influences Others to do What is Right - This is very important. **"Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other man's sins. Keep thyself pure"** (I Timothy 5:22). I use that text a lot with young people. However, it really is written by inspiration. The Apostle Paul wrote that to a preacher, Timothy, who, we understand, was in his forties probably. So Paul says to Timothy, look, lay hands suddenly on no man. Well, what's that a reference to? Well, today I think we'd call it ordination. The idea was the laying on of hands. So he says, "Lay hands on no man suddenly. Neither be partaker of other men's sins." What's he talking about there? Well, he's saying, look, don't give credence to, don't give approval lightly to others, and in so doing be a partaker of their sins. In other words, here's a fellow that says, "I want to preach. I believe God's called me to preach." And I say, "Hey, bless God, I'm for you, brother. If you're called to preach, I'm for this fellow." And I am his friend. No! That's not what the Bible teaches at all.

"Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins. Keep thyself pure." I am supposed to do what's right and you're supposed to do what's right, period. And if you do what's right you will do so at a sacrifice, if you're a friend. And if you do what's right and sacrifice, you will influence others to do what's right. So what do I do with this fellow over here that may not be doing what's right? If I am a friend I will help him to do what he's supposed to be doing. The easiest way to illustrate that again is with the family. If I've got a youngster and he's four and he misbehaves at the table, I am his father and I love him so I do right by him. And I'm his friend. I want to influence him to do what's right, then I say to this youngster, "Hey, don't do that. Stop right now. That's not right, that's not right at all so don't do it." Someone says, "Boy, that guy's kind of stern, isn't he? That's kind of mean, isn't it?" **No!**

5. A Friend Encourages Others to do Right - God gives us friends to help us to do right. You know, one of the most dangerous things in the world for an interpreter or a preacher or a minister is to have what we call "yes" people around him. You say, "Brother Rice, you ever have any body say to you, 'I don't know if I agree with that or not?'" I have it all the time. Does that bother me? Not a bit.

I don't want people to say, "Brother Bill said it. It's got to be true." It doesn't have to be true because Brother Bill said it. It has to be true if God said it. And Brother Bill needs to say what God says. I need friends. By the way, don't stop me after the class this morning and give me a list of sixteen things I need to change. I'm a little busy today, but I need friends and in that, I mean people who will love me, people who themselves are doing what's right and people who will help me to do what's right. And that's what I need to be. Here again, I can't always have those, **I can't always have friends, but I can always be one.** I don't know why in the world we feel like a man who wants to help someone else do what's right is not a friend.

An Illustration:

*Suppose I find out that a pastor to the deaf, Jim Asbury, is taking a position that I think would be improper about chewing tobacco in his church. We'll make it ludicrous so that nobody will be worried about Brother Jim. So he's teaching to his deaf people, "It's all right to chew tobacco. It does look a little messy, but it really is all right as long as you don't get anything on anybody else. Your chin's okay, just nobody else's chin." Suppose I write Brother Jim, and by the way, I'm a friend of his and if you ask him, he'd say that, we're not close, we don't have lunch together everyday. I was privileged to speak in his church once and spend a little time with him and I see him here at the Ranch and that's all. But I think very highly of Brother Asbury and I believe he loves the Ranch. So do you think it would be all right for me to call Brother Jim and say, "Brother Jim, first, I heard that you told people it was okay to chew tobacco. Is that true?" "Yes, Brother Rice, it's true." "Brother Jim, I don't believe that's wise." Now do you think he should say to me, **"Bill, I thought you were my friend."** Should he say that to me? No. What if he disagrees with me? That's all right. He still does not have the right to say to me, **"I thought you were my friend."** The very fact that I am calling him up and saying, "Is this true? Does this not need to be fixed? This is not right. Doesn't the Bible say somewhere **thou shalt not chew tobacco?** It's got to say it in here someplace." Wouldn't I have a right to confront him with that? Doesn't the Bible say that? **Galatians 6** talks about people who are not friends. **"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness."** Does that mean you've got to be an enemy? Yes or no? No! It is talking about friends; "if a brother." And in the spirit of meekness, the idea is not, "Well, Jim, how dare you brother? You've been coming to the Ranch and you've been letting people chew tobacco. You're not going to be able to come next summer unless you straighten up. Or else I'm putting all kinds of political pressure on you." That's not the meaning here at all. The thing is, I love Brother Jim, I love the people with whom he works.*

We need to help deaf people, don't we? Then I need to help people that help deaf people. All right, I may be wrong but I can still be a friend. And he and I can talk about it. So a friend is a person who influences others to do what's right.

I scribbled down **three things** this teaches:

Number one, I must not enter into sin.

Number two, I must not encourage others to enter into sin.

Number three, I must not condone those who do.

Why must I not enter into sin? Why must I not encourage others to enter into sin? And why must I not condone those who do? Because I am a friend. Did you get that? Let's try it one more time. Why must I not enter into sin? Because I want to be a friend to people and to help. That's a secondary reason but it's a reason nonetheless. Why must I not encourage others to enter into sin and why must I not condone those who do? Because I am a friend. Do you see that? You see, a friend encourages others to do what's right.

6. A friend Has Enemies - "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God" (James 4:4). So a friend always has enemies. Now, the idea that I am to be everybody's friend is impossible. Certainly the idea that everybody is to be my friend is impossible. That is, I might try to be a friend to let's say, Mr. Gorbechev. What's the first thing I would want to do if I had the opportunity to sit down with him. What's the first thing I need to let him know? I need to let him know about the Lord Jesus. He probably doesn't have the foggiest notion about the Gospel. Mary and I were in Moscow several years ago. It's an interesting thing because I always view the Russians, any Russian, with suspicion for whatever reason. And I don't trust Mr. Gorbechev. I don't think he's a good man. But he needs the Lord. So if I met Mr. Gorbechev, the first thing I'd need to do is to say, "Hey, you need the Lord Jesus." Now let's assume just for the sake of illustration that he trusts Christ, then there'd be several other things I'd need to do, a lot of which would be no's. In other words, **"Mr. Gorbechev, you need to stop this, you need to quit that, this needs to be changed."**

This is a wonderful illustration; it gives me a feeling of power. But the point is, if I were a friend to him and if I befriended him, there would be times in our conversation where I'd say, **"Hey, that's wrong. What you've done is based on the concept that God doesn't even exist." Well, would I love him?** Well, sure. Would I be concerned about him? Well, sure. Would I want to help him? Well, sure. But a lot of what I'd have to say is, "No, no, no, bad, bad, bad, wrong, wrong, wrong."

Do you understand that? So the reason I can't befriend him, I would assume, is because he is an enemy of Christ. Now, I don't know that he's ever heard the Gospel, so I should want to take the Gospel to every person. But the fact is if I do that and as I do that, I'll make enemies. Now let me say this and I hope it will be an encouragement to you. If you're serving God in your local church in the deaf ministry, you're going to be a friend to a lot of deaf people and I don't mean to be unkind about this, but you're going to be a friend to a lot of deaf people who will not return that friendship. You need to know that. There are going to be deaf people in your group that will get mad or upset and maybe they think they have a right to, but don't let that discourage you in the sense of saying, "Well, I don't have any friends." It doesn't make any difference.

What you and I need to do is to be a friend.

Now I'll tell you something else that will hurt. In your local church, if you do befriend deaf people and you are able by the grace of God to help deaf people, and may God help us to do that, you're going to have hearing people that are not going to be thrilled to death with you. So you can get it from both barrels. Sometimes you get pressure from the people and sometimes you get pressure from leadership. And sometimes you get pressure from both directions at the same time.

Favor is God Given - If you say, "You know, my Pastor's not being friendly to me." Don't worry about that. The question is, are you being a friend to him? So you say, "Well, my deaf people don't understand me." Well, that's not as important as, are you burdened for them? Don't walk out of here saying, "Lord, I don't have enough friends."

The honest truth is, most of us are not enough of a friend, that's what we need to do. And I believe this, I believe that as we do what's right and as we are friends, God can provide for us what we need.

The greatest example of that, I think, is Joseph in **Genesis chapter 39**. Joseph is out of favor with his brothers. Now think about this, out of favor with his brothers, sold as a slave. He comes into the favor of Potiphar then he's out of the favor of Potiphar. He's in the favor of the keeper of the prison, then he's out of the favor of the keeper of the prison or he's out of the prison, and he comes into the favor of Pharaoh. Who did that for Joseph? **God**.

Why did Joseph's brothers hate him? Well somebody says, "Because he was a snob." He may have been. I think he may have made some mistakes when he was seventeen, but why did his brothers hate him? Well, let me tell you what his answer was. Joseph said when later in Egypt, he revealed himself to his brothers. He said, "What you did, you did for evil. But God did it for my good." Isn't that wonderful? In other words, Joseph was just as much in God's favor when he was in the pit as he was when he was in the palace. So all of it was part of God's working in his life. But God brought Joseph into favor with the people with whom he needed favor in order to do what God needed for him to do.

So, suppose I say, "These people really like me. This guy over here somewhere really likes me." Well, if it's true, if he really befriends me, that favor for me is God given. It's not because I'm a nice guy. It really is important to remember that. In other words, I don't need to live in such a way where I say, "Boy, I hope Keith likes me." Because if I do that, what I'll do is I'll cut corners so that I won't be offensive to Keith. I don't need to do that. What I need to do is do what's right. Then as I do what's right, I say, "God, you bring me the favor that I need with your people in order to do your work." **But all I need to do is to be a friend and I can leave in God's hand the business of getting me friends.**

This is what the Bible teaches about friendship

**Friendship is doing what's right,
friendship is encouraging
others to do what's right,
and of course,
friendship brings also enemies.
If you're God's friend,
you're going to be the world's enemy.**

**This is the meaning
of true
“Bible Friendship.”**

***“I had a broken heart
to mend,
God mended it by sending
a friend.”***

By
Jo Ann Whitaker



Friends

Some Friendly Thoughts

A true friend is someone you trust with your secrets.

Gems are precious, but friends are priceless.

Good times are better when shared with a friend.

Friends think and listen not talk and leave.

Friends remain when others leave.

**Friends come in all shapes and sizes
but their hearts are always BIG.**

**No matter the distance or time
between them friends stay close at heart.**

**If all the world had a friend
what a wonderful world it would be.**

Friends walk and talk with you.

Loving Moments Become Lasting Memories.

Friends encourage friends to do right.

You are very fortunate if you have five good friends.

The best things in life are not things, but people.

Don't love things but love people.

**"Some people come into our lives
and quickly go...
Some stay for a while
and leave footprints on our hearts,
And we are never ever the Same."**

Unknown

*Friends are everywhere
if you have eyes to see them,
ears to listen to them,
hands to help them,
a heart to love them.*

- TC

Silent Word Ministries, Inc.

Silent Word Ministries is a nonprofit, independent, Baptist ministry with federal 501(c)3 approval. The ministry was established in 1966 to fulfill the Great Commission through evangelism and ministry into all the world, especially to the Deaf. The goal of SWM is to reach the world of the Deaf for Christ; to help establish Deaf ministries in strong, fundamental churches; to win people to Christ worldwide; to help build local Deaf ministries; and to strengthen **Deaf and hearing** people into Christian maturity through a trusted, Bible-based literature program.



SWM includes a Deaf Bible Institute (Bible courses online and postal); a DVD Teaching & Training Institute (T&T); **The Silent Word**, a free, bimonthly Christian newspaper for the Deaf, deaf ministry workers, local churches, and Deaf ministries worldwide; a worldwide online/Internet ministry; an evangelistic outreach ministry; and a specialized mission board (USA & Foreign).

Silent Word Publications produces and prints trusted Christian literature for everyone, but especially for Deaf people and Deaf ministries. **SWPublications** includes manuals, Bible study lessons, books, and other Christian materials. Also, quality American Sign Language (ASL) materials are available. **SWM Tracts** are sent free as the Lord provides. All Bible references are KJV.

SWM Video Productions produces a large variety of preaching and teaching videos. All videos are either signed, signed and voiced, or captioned. Many Christian and family videos are also available.

For more information of all our ministries and catalog view:

SilentWordMinistries.org

For All Your Deaf Ministry Needs

Deaf Ministry Resources

Catalog • Newspaper • Free Deaf Bible Courses (DBI)

Deaf Vital Signs (Training) • Sign The Bible (Lessons)

Follow 8 Steps (Discipleship) • Events • Articles

Newsletters • Videos • Downloads • More

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We are here to serve!

