

# sermon notes

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Pastor Tony Caffey, VBVF | Fearing Deity & Defying Stupidity  
April 28, 2024 | “The Company You Keep” | **Proverbs 18:1–24**

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- 1) Friendships require \_\_\_\_\_  
(18:1–4)
- 2) Friendships require \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
(18:5–8)
- 3) Friendships require \_\_\_\_\_  
(18:9–12)
- 4) Friendships require \_\_\_\_\_  
(18:13–19)
- 5) Friendships require \_\_\_\_\_  
(18:20–24)

## Questions for further application of God’s Word:

### GO DEEPER

Read Proverbs 18:1–24. What are some ways that relationships/friendships are strengthened? How can foolish behavior or foolish speech compromise or prevent close friendships/relationships?

Read Proverbs 18:1. Why is isolation so dangerous? What complications come with close relationships? Are the complications worth the benefits? Why or why not? From an NT perspective, how are Christians required to love and serve fellow brothers and sisters in Christ?

Read Proverbs 18:24. Do you have friends that are like family? Why did God give us friendships? What does a biblical friendship look like? How does our Christian faith and our connection to Christ (and the Holy Spirit) strengthen our friendships?

### GET PERSONAL

In what ways can your friendships become more Christ-like? How did some of your closest friendships form? How did they grow? What do you find most difficult in forging real friendships? Is it possible to forge real friendships without an investment of time?

What are some fears or anxieties you have about making or keeping friends? Have you ever had a really close friend? Have you ever lost a really close friend? Have you ever been betrayed by a close friend? How do the experiences of Jesus (Judas) and Paul (Demas) help us to bounce back from a personal betrayal?

### PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Consider the following questions from the book, *The Company We Keep: In Search of Biblical Friendship* by Jonathan D. Holmes: 1) How can I pray for you? Where are you struggling? 3) Where have you experienced God’s grace in your struggle? 4) What is bringing joy to your heart lately? 5) How can I be a better friend to you?

Do you ask questions like this of your friends? Is there anyone in your life that you are comfortable asking these questions? Why or why not?

### ADVANCED QUESTION

Read Proverbs 18:21. How are life and death in the power of the tongue? Is Solomon hyperbolizing? Is he speaking about eternal life and death or physical life and death? How do our tongues communicate or indicate what our hearts believe (see Matt 10:32; Rom 10:9–10; 1 John 2:23; 4:15)?