



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Speaker: Chris Royalty // Sunday: February 26, 2023

- 1) Begin your time by briefly praying and asking the Holy Spirit to help you as you discuss and study.
- 2) How would you describe true friendship? What is it? What isn't it?
- 3) Read Proverbs 17:17 together.
- 4) What is your takeaway from this verse? What is it teaching us?
- 5) Allen P Ross says this about this passage:

“The love of a true friend is constant. The verse is synonymous parallelism; i.e., the “friend” and the “brother” are equated. Faithful “love” (*’ōhēb*) is present at all times, even in times of “adversity” (*ṣārāh*), when it might be severely tested. Some take the two lines as antithetical. Plaut represents this view by arguing that friendship is a spiritual relationship, but a brother’s ties are based on a blood relationship. He adds, “No wonder that adversity is frequently the only unifying force in many families” (p. 189). But the line is not implying that the brother confines his kindness to times of adversity; moreover, the brother does not always come forward at such times (see 18:19, 24; 19:7; 27:10). Here the true friend is the same as a brotherly relation. *L^eṣārāh* may be translated “of adversity”—it is in such times of adversity that this strong friendship is displayed.”¹

What do you think? Are the two parts of verse 17 parallel or antithetical to one another? Explain.

- 6) Read Proverbs 25:20 together.
- 7) What is your takeaway from this verse? What is it teaching us?
- 8) Regarding this verse, Ross says: “Irresponsible attempts to cheer people up only make matters worse.”² Has someone ever done this to you? Have you ever done this to someone else? Discuss.
- 9) Read Proverbs 27:6 together.

- 10) Has a friend ever wounded you in a good way? Has a friend ever wounded you in a bad way? Discuss.
- 11) Read Proverbs 27:9 together.
- 12) What are the characteristics of someone who gives advice in a good way? What are the characteristics of a bad advice giver?
- 13) Read Proverbs 27:17 together.
- 14) Respond to this quote from Allen P. Ross: “Constructive criticism between friends develops character.”³
- 15) Who are the friends in your life that help sharpen you and give you constructive criticism?
- 16) Read Proverbs 17:9 together?
- 17) Do you find it easy or hard to forgive a friend? Explain.
- 18) End your time in prayer. Ask God to help you apply the things you’ve discussed and learned during this time of study.

¹ Allen P. Ross, “[Proverbs.](#)” in *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary: Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs*, ed. Frank E. Gaebelin, vol. 5 (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1991), 1019.

² Allen P. Ross, “[Proverbs.](#)” in *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary: Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs*, ed. Frank E. Gaebelin, vol. 5 (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1991), 1084.

³ Allen P. Ross, “[Proverbs.](#)” in *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary: Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs*, ed. Frank E. Gaebelin, vol. 5 (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1991), 1099.