



Real Friends by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

QUESTION: "How can I tell who my real friends are?"

ANSWER: Get into trouble or suffer loss of health, wealth, or popularity.

[Solomon said,]The poor man is hated even by his own neighbor,
But the rich has many friends. (**Proverbs 14:20**)

Material success attracts people like a light attracts moths, but when the light goes out, the "moths" leave and find another light. "Friends" who only share your spotlight or attention will desert you when you are having trouble "shining." Job's blessings from God were so abundant, "that this man was the greatest of all the people of the East" (**Job 1:3**). Then he was broad-sided by life and stripped of everything but his devotion to God. From the depths of despair, Job observed:

My relatives have failed,
And **my close friends** have forgotten me.
Those who dwell in my house, and my maidservants,
Count me as a stranger; I am an alien in their sight.
I call **my servant**, but he gives no answer;
I beg him with my mouth.
My breath is offensive to **my wife**,
And I am repulsive to **the children of my own body**.
Even **young children** despise me; I arise, and they speak against me.
All **my close friends** abhor me,
And **those whom I love** have turned against me.
My bone clings to my skin and to my flesh,
And I have escaped by the skin of my teeth. (**Job 19:14-20**)

Without success, through pain and suffering, Job shows all of us who our true Friend is. Center our lives upon God, and don't let others define us. They are humans, but God is God!

For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart. (**1 Samuel 16:7**)

We must learn that, in life,

We do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. (**2 Corinthians 4:18**)

As we grow through our lives, circumstances may rob our riches, but nothing can touch what should be our most precious possession, our faith.

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith. (**1 John 5:4**)

Solomon said,

The righteous should choose his friends carefully,
For the way of the wicked leads them astray. (**Proverbs 12:26**)

A man who has friends must himself be friendly,
But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. (**Proverbs 18:24**)

Life is a matter of making friends, then seeing who "sticks closer than a brother." Jesus told a man freed from his demon possession to:

"Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you." (**Mark 5:19**)

True friends will want to know "what great things the Lord has done for you."

— *JTP II*, September 9, 2018