

Wise words on friendship, from Proverbs

11:12 Whoever derides their neighbour has no sense, but the one who has understanding holds their tongue.

12:26 The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

14:20 The poor are shunned even by their neighbours, but the rich have many friends.

17:9 Whoever would foster love covers over an offence, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends

17:14 Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam; so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out.

17:17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.

18:24 One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

19:4 Wealth attracts many friends, but even the closest friend of the poor person deserts them.

20:6 Many claim to have unfailing love, but a faithful person who can find?

22:24-25 Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered, or you may learn their ways and get yourself ensnared

24:26 An honest answer is like a kiss on the lips.

25:17 Seldom set foot in your neighbour's house – too much of you, and they will hate you.

25:19 Like a broken tooth or a lame foot is reliance on the unfaithful in a time of trouble.

25:20 Like one who takes away a garment on a cold day, or like vinegar poured on a wound, is one who sings songs to a heavy heart.

26:18-19 Like a maniac shooting flaming arrows of death is one who deceives their neighbour and says, 'I was only joking!'

27:5-6 Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

27:14 If anyone loudly blesses their neighbour early in the morning, it will be taken as a curse.

27:17 As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

(NIV)