

WORD OF THE DAY



WORD OF THE DAY ([Proverbs 27:5-6](#))

“Open rebuke is better than secret love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.”

Friend or Foe, Faithful or Fickle



What is a Friend? Friendship is very important. The need for friendship is perhaps even more important in our Christian walk with God. For those who are traveling the broad path, and already have friendship with the world, their pool of candidates for friendship is vast. However, for the child of God who is hated by the world on the strait([strait vs straight](#)) and narrow, it is important that the few friends that we do have, are true friends.

Friendship is More. The secular world often defines friendship as having someone who will always enjoy the good times in life with you and encourage you to do whatever you desire. Unfortunately, such a view on friendship is limited and does not align with the portrait of friendship presented in our verse for the week. In our verse of the week ([Proverbs 27:5-6](#)) we are told that an open rebuke is better than secret love, and that the wounds of a friend are faithful, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful. This informs us that friendship is more than just having someone who agrees with you, but a person who we invite to hold us accountable, even if it comes in the form of a rebuke.

Peter and Judas: Faithful and Fickle. Peter loved Jesus, and when Jesus announced that He was going to the cross, Peter openly rebuked Jesus ([Matthew 16:22](#)). Although Peter was misled in rebuking Jesus, he however was faithful and this rebuke was motivated by his love for the one whom God had revealed to Peter to be the Son of God ([Matthew 16:18](#)). While Peter fled when Jesus was arrested, Peter later returned after the resurrection, staying true and faithful to his friendship with Jesus. Judas however openly kissed Jesus on the cheek when the soldiers came to arrest Jesus ([Luke 22:47](#)). Although a kiss is normally associated with love, this public kiss from Judas was filled with venom.

The friendship of Peter with Jesus was faithful, it was tested and nearly broke, but Peter returned, proving that his rebuke of Jesus was in love; while, the friendship of Judas with Jesus was fickle, it was tested and shattered, and Judas never returned, proving that his kiss was truly deceitful.

-Your brother in Christ, [WNL](#)

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

True friends are not necessarily those who agree with you, this is fickle; instead, true friends are those who always return, they are faithful.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Dear God, thank you for calling me friend. Help me to be patient with my friends who may not always agree with me. Allow me to receive rebuke and not quickly push away those who correct me in love. Help me to filter out the fickle and keep the faithful. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.



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