**Know Your Friends**

**Proverbs 27:4 Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy?**

(who can stand before envy? if a person is jealous of you, they will never be a true friend. Envy is the strongest element of hatred, and total opposite of love.)

**Ecclesiasticus 37:10 Consult not with one that suspecteth thee: and hide thy counsel from such as envy thee.**

(One that suspects you, is referring to a person with “AN EVIL EYE”. many have BRETHREN, old friends, new friends, cousins, and relatives that hate your guts. The last thing you should do, is confide in such a person, or have them “close to you”. With or without the bible. Life IS NOT a movie, with wrong advice “keep your friends close and your enemies closer”, unless you want to try out for Godfather IV, or BronxTale 2. Live in the LORD, NOT die as a thug or wanna-be-gangster.)

**Proverbs 22:3 A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.**

(by being truly wise and good, you can see evil in someone. Although everyone is imperfect, TRULY EVIL people will bring trouble and harm, and you will objectively identify them and separate from them.)

**Matthew 10:16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.**

(The Master warns His true servants, past and present, to not be naïve, nor trusting of the wrong people nor predators quoting scriptures, but to be wise as the smartest animal, but harmless as a dove.)

**Ecclesiasticus 37:15 And above all this pray to the most High, that he will direct thy way in truth.**

**:16 Let reason go before every enterprize, and counsel before every action.**

(by praying to the LORD to reveal to you the hearts of men and women, and to see how He sees: ISamuel 16:7, you will NOT be pricked by sins of men that are avoidable.)

**Ecclesiasticus 37:12 But be continually with a godly man, whom thou knowest to keep the commandments of the Lord, whose, mind is according to thy mind, and will sorrow with thee, if thou shalt miscarry.**

(Have close friends that fear the LORD, and NOT just the eyes of men. A godly man shows love in word and deed: **IJohn 3:18, John 13:35**, and is loyal to you and others. TRUE FRIENDS NEVER find humor in your shame, suffering or embarrassment. Hypocrites say they have love, but do not show the actions!)

**Ecclesiasticus 6:13 Separate thyself from thine enemies, and take heed of thy friends.**

**:14 A faithfull friend is a strong defence: and he that hath found such an one hath found a treasure.**

**:15 Nothing doth countervail a faithful friend, and his excellency is invaluable.**

**:16 A faithful friend is the medicine of life; and they that fear the Lord shall find him.**

**:17 Whoso feareth the Lord shall direct his friendship aright: FOR AS HE IS, so shall his neighbour be also.**

(Good friends are rare treasures. Your friends also reflect you.)

**Proverbs 18:24 A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.**

(A good and true friend will show caring qualities, be a friend in deed, and loyalty.)

**Romans 13:8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.**

**:9 FOR THIS, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.**

**:10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore LOVE IS the fulfilling of the law.**

(a person with true love, applies the commandments, and has your back whether in your face, or out of your sight. Love CANNOT be hidden, NEITHER can hatred. True love is a person applying the commandments towards you in truth. Apply the laws with them as well.)

**Ecclesiasticus 6:7 If thou wouldest get a friend, PROVE HIM FIRST and be not hasty to credit him.**

**:8 For some man is a friend for his OWN occasion, and will NOT abide in the day of thy trouble.**

**:10 Again, some friend is a companion at the table, and will NOT continue in the day of thy affliction.**

(Some friends only hang around for the benefits they get from being around you, but are not true.)

**Ecclesiasticus 12:8 A friend cannot be known in prosperity: and an enemy cannot be hidden in adversity.**

(A true friend cannot be identified when things are good, and an enemy will be more evident when you suffer and will bring the adversity. Enemies ARE ALSO grieved at your success, not happy!)

To be ensured of having a good friend, you must be true and loyal. A true friend will be just like you. If you are shady, envious and devilish, you won’t get a “great” friend, but an unclean bird from your same flock. And at some point, the LORD will make you are devoured, as you have done to others. Therefore, be a true friend, and ALSO wise (**Matthew 10:16**), NOT naïve. Because many wolves and predators love quoting scriptures as Satan did to Christ: **Luke 4:1-13**.

All glory, praises and honor to our Father and Most High YHWH, and our Lord and King Christ!!

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