

**Closer than a Brother**

**Proverbs 17-18**

1. ON FRIENDSHIP: Wisdom recognizes the value of different kinds of \_\_\_\_\_ and emphasizes the value of good \_\_\_\_\_.

a. Though they are different in important ways, both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are valuable.

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

b. Love covers a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Peter 4:8).

Whoever covers an offense seeks love,  
but he who repeats a matter separates close friends. (17:9)  
Hatred stirs up strife,  
but love covers all offenses. (10:12)

c. The true “friend who sticks closer than a brother” (18:24) is \_\_\_\_\_.

2. SOME HIGHLIGHTS: Not going to try to relate all of these, but let’s note a few highlights...

a. Sometimes talking is \_\_\_\_\_, and sometimes talking is \_\_\_\_\_. You figure it out.

A fool takes no pleasure in understanding,  
but only in expressing his opinion. (18:2)  
The words of a man’s mouth are deep waters;  
the fountain of wisdom is a bubbling brook. (18:4)

b. All human beings have \_\_\_\_\_ and dignity as God’s creatures, made in God’s \_\_\_\_\_.

Whoever mocks the poor insults his Maker;  
he who is glad at calamity will not go unpunished. (17:5)

c. Wisdom is careful to hear \_\_\_\_\_ sides of an \_\_\_\_\_.

The one who states his case first seems right,  
until the other comes and examines him. (18:17)

3. FOCUS OFF THE FAMILY: While clearly acknowledging the blessing of \_\_\_\_\_, wisdom also acknowledges that family is not an \_\_\_\_\_ blessing.

Grandchildren are the crown of the aged,  
and the glory of children is their fathers. (17:6; also 18:22)  
A foolish son is a grief to his father  
and bitterness to her who bore him. (17:25; also 17:2, 21)

a. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Proverbs:

b. The \_\_\_\_\_ on Christ’s Kingdom:

c. The \_\_\_\_\_ of singleness:

d. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the future:

e. The words of the incarnate Wisdom of God really are this \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ the Kingdom of God.