



**“Sticky Friendships”**  
**Wise Living in a Foolish Age: Studies in the Book of Proverbs**

**I. Introduction**

Three Types of friend Mentioned in Proverbs:

1. *rea* (*ray·ah*) neighbor, passing friend, or acquaintance
2. *alluph* (*al·loof*) one of the strongest Hebrew words for “friend”; speaks of bosom companions who are committed to one another’s growth.
3. *ahab* (*aw·hab*) literally translates “one who loves”; speaks of close friends with mutual goals

“A man of too many friends (*rea* – acquaintances) comes to ruin, but there is a friend (*ahab* – loving friend) who sticks closer than a brother” (Proverbs 18:24, NASB).

**II. What a Sticky Friend Doesn’t Do**

- a. Destroy friendships with their lips (11:9)
- b. Belittle friends (11:12)
- c. Gossip about neighbors (16:2)
- d. Pretend to be a friend (18:24a)
- e. Buy friends with gifts or expect give from them (19:4)
- f. Abandon friends or friend of the family in times of need (27:10)

**III. What a Sticky Friend Does**

- a. Seeks counsel (12:26)
- b. Knows friendships need guarding (16:28)
- c. Forgives & Forgets (17:9)
- d. Loves & is Loyal (18:17; 20:6)
- e. Sticks closer than a brother (18:24b)
- f. Offers friendly counsel (27:9b)

#### **IV. Guidelines to Sticky Friendships**

##### **Four Attitudes:**

1. Be humble
2. Be accepting of others
3. Be committed to the other person's growth
4. Be relaxed

##### **Four Actions:**

1. Ask questions
2. Listen and remember
3. Do it, don't just talk about doing it
4. Keep in personal contact

#### **V. Friendship Between God and Man**

- a. Moses (Exodus 33:11)
- b. Abraham (2 Chronicles 20:7, James 2:23)
- c. Lazarus (John 11:11)
- d. Sinner & tax collectors (Matthew 11:19)
- e. You and I (John 15:12-17)

"You are my friends if you do what I command you" (John 15:14, ESV).

#### **Can you fill in your name?**

##### **Discussion Questions**

1. What are your weakest areas in friendship building?
2. What are your strongest?
3. Do you have a few sticky friends or many acquaintances? Why?
4. What can you do this week to help yourself develop in these areas?
5. Can you call yourself a friend of God? How can you be certain?