

## Friendships: Risks & Rewards

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

**"Faithful are the wounds of a friend, profuse are the kisses of an enemy." (Proverbs 27:6)**

**Patrick Morley in his book states that most men have a 'friendship deficit.' In other words, most men have a difficult time developing and maintaining a friendship with other men. Someone once stated that many Christians suffer from the 'Porcupine Syndrome'...we NEED each other but the closer we get to one another we NEEDLE each other! Many men find it difficult to be 'totally transparent.' Many men are 'lonely' and yearn for one true friend...another man that they can bear their soul with and not fear any repercussions, reprisal or rejection.**

### SUMMARY:

Take this evaluation home with you and do it. See where you stand on how you view the whole concept of friendship. In our 'shallow,' 'superficial,' 'self-centered' world, men desperately need a tried, true and tested friend...another man with whom they can be 'real' with in regards to the substantive issues of life. Check out your understanding of how you view 'friendship' with what God's Word states about it in these verses below!

### NOTES:

## DISCUSSION POINTS:

- \*Do you agree/disagree with the author that most men have a 'friendship deficit.' Explain your answer.
- \*Do you have a 'close friend' that you meet with regularly as an accountability partner? If so, what kind of things do you discuss? (Sports, weather, etc--those things don't count!)
- \*Have you ever been 'betrayed' by an individual whom you confided in as a 'close friend?' How did you handle it? Will you ever be able to develop a 'close/intimate' friendship with another man? Has this 'betrayal' affected other relationships for you?
- \*Sometimes we need a friend to be:
  - a sounding board...who is that for you?
  - a counselor...who do you go to for advice?
  - a listener...who do you turn to that won't offer a 'big lecture?'
- \*The old adage states, 'In order to have a friend, you must be a friend.' What have you done to develop your friendships with people

## APPLICATION:

1. The Risks....Problems
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
2. The Rewards,,,Potential
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.

## ON YOUR OWN...

Proverbs 17:17;27:6; Psalm 55:12-14;  
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; John 15:13