

We All Need Somebody

Ecclesiastes 4:7-12

September 27, 2026

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Introduction:

- **Ecclesiastes 4:7-12**
 - **Ecclesiastes 4:7-8** ... Solomon is basically saying that being alone is miserable.
 - Chorus to theme song of *Cheers*.
 - We need to understand a few things:
 - We all need friends –
 - We all need the right kind of friends –
 - Real relationships take work –
 - How do we navigate this road of relationships?
 - What is a friend?
 - Hebrew – **Rea**
 - Greek – **Philos**
 - English – **Friend**
 - All three of these words agree – “*A friend is a person with whom one shares affection and commitment.*”
 - What kind of friend should we be looking for?
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1. A Real Friend is Someone Who Will Pick You Up:

- a. Facebook has somewhat redefined what people call a friend.
- b. **Aristotle** ... A true friend – “*A single soul dwelling in two bodies.*”
- c. The tie that binds true friendship must be rooted in Jesus.
- d. **1st Samuel 19** – Saul tells his son Jonathan that he was going to kill David.
- e. Jonathan warns David of this and pledges that he will never hurt David – they were best friends.
- f. **1st Samuel 18** – speaks of Jonathan and David’s friendship
- g. **1st Samuel 18:3-4** – Jonathan gives his royal robe, tunic, sword, bow and his belt to David – proclaiming David will be the next king of Israel.
- h. **Romans 12** – Love must be sincere.
- i. With a real friend, it is not about you.
- j. **Proverbs 17:17**

2. A Real Friend Should Warm Your Spirit:

- a. We live in a society now where condescending words and attitudes are the norm.
- b. A real friend will always warm your spirit, never cut you down.
- c. But as friends, how can we warm one another's spirits?
- d. **1st Samuel 23:15-18**
- e. Notice the kind of friend Jonathan is.
- f. Three practical steps to having Christ-like compassion:
 - 1. Try to see people through the Eyes of God.
 - 2. Try to feel with God's Heart.
 - 3. Treat people like Jesus treats you.

1. A Real Friend Will Defend You:

- a. One of the greatest feelings in the world is to feel that you are worth defending.
- b. Do you surround yourself with people of good character, a character worth defending?
- c. Do not confuse Character with Reputation:
 - 1. Reputation –
 - 2. Character –
- d. **1st Corinthians 15:3**
- e. **1st Samuel 20:28-34** – Jonathan challenges his father about David.
- f. This is more than just a father-son disagreement.
- g. You see a true friend will do everything possible to protect those who they care about and love, no matter the consequence. The safety of your friend is what is most important ... right?
- h. That is why a real friend will do everything possible to make sure that they are sharing Jesus with everyone they love and care for.
- i. A real friend has two things in mind – the Physical and Spiritual Health of the people they care for.
- j. Are you that kind of friend?