

“THE FRIEND OF GOD”

John 15:12-17

by

Dr. John A. Wells

Friendships have been on my mind a lot this week. I don't know where I would be today if I didn't have friends throughout my life. My best friend is my wife. Best friends can be honest with us because they love us, warts and all. They allow us to feel comfortable around them and they give us access to both their lives and resources. Best friends are usually there when you need them the most, even if it's the middle of the night. They also do things for you that you would never dare to ask of someone else. I think best friends are even closer than family, because they choose to care, and were not born to have to care. Proverbs 17:17 says, “A true friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need.” Best friends are the ones I wanted at my wedding, at my parents' funerals, and at other special times in my life. It is also my experience that best friends are the ones who most closely listen to us, and are most faithful praying for us.

I have always treasured my best friend in high school. I moved a lot, so it was hard to make and keep friends. Steve, however, was my best buddy, even if he was a foot taller. I could always count on hanging around at his house when I needed to get away from mine. His mom always knew what I liked to eat and my mom always knew what he liked. He loaned me money without thought of having to pay it back, even though I did. I remember it took me two years to pay back \$200.00, but he never mentioned it. He covered for me and I covered for him when we tried to get over on our parents. I always knew I had someone at school to eat lunch with, talk with about girl friends and acne, and compete to see how many \$.23 McDonald hamburgers we could eat. We are best friends to this day. The older I get, the more important it becomes to me, to not have to start from scratch with someone else.

We read in Exodus 33:11 that “The Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.” Through Christ, God has also called us friend (Jn 15:12-17). If we have earthly friends that care about us so greatly, can you imagine what it's like to have God for a friend? We can reveal our deepest darkest secrets because He already knows them and loves us anyway. He loves to give us from His rich storehouse of resources. He is there during all our moments of life, be they bright or dark. He knows what we like and takes good care of us. He stays in touch with us all our life, even though we may forget to write or call. The only way to pay back friendship is to be a friend ourselves. God is always our friend. How about being a friend to Him this week and see what happens to your day. It just may be very memorable. You also may want to take the time to thank one of your best friends.