

The Sweetness of a Friend

Proverbs 26-27

1. **THE RIGHT THING AT THE WRONG TIME IS THE WRONG THING:** Wisdom requires situational awareness, knowing how to say and do the right thing at the _____.

Answer not a fool according to his folly,
lest you be like him yourself.
Answer a fool according to his folly,
lest he be wise in his own eyes. (26:4-5; Also: 27:14)

2. **SOME HIGHLIGHTS:**

- a. Do not be wise in _____ (26:12, 16; cf. 3:7).
- b. Wisdom is _____ (27:2).
- c. Wisdom is humble when _____ for the _____ (27:1).

3. **THE FRIENDSHIP PROVERBS:** The book of Proverbs continues to speak much of friendship, offering a rich and _____ picture that _____ us to think deeply and live wisely.

- a. _____: Do not cling to friendship too tightly (an application of the broader wisdom of holding good things loosely).

Let your foot be seldom in your neighbor's house,
lest he have his fill of you and hate you. (25:17)

- b. _____ to _____: Recognize the value of friendship, invest and challenging one another accordingly.

Oil and perfume make the heart glad,
and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel. (27:9; Also: 27:6, 10, 17)

- c. _____: No experience of friendship in this life is perfect (in terms of mode, quality, or lasting character), and for this too we need the gospel of Jesus Christ. (It is the Son – the *logos*, the Word, the Wisdom of God – through whom the world was made who is speaking in Proverbs of the reality and goodness of friendship.)

A man of many companions may come to ruin,
but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. (18:24)

- d. Every experience of relationship in this life longs for and participates in the _____ of _____.

Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. (John 17:24)