

FRIENDSHIP

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A friend is a person well-known to another and regarded with liking, affection and loyalty. The best friend should therefore be your spouse, boy friend or girl friend.

A friend is someone who, when necessary, is painfully honest; someone who helps without reward or publication.

It is right that people should surround themselves with only people who lift and support them.

They should not surround themselves with troublesome people.

You can certainly have friends whom you have never met. There are many people who have pen friends, although they are sometimes called pen pals. I know very many people who have found loyal and sound friends through correspondence although they have never met and many profitable friendships have resulted from phone calls only.

Friendship is much stronger than an association; an association is mixing with people socially.

The attributes of friendship is sympathy, empathy, honesty, understanding, compassion, trust, help, support, loyalty and sharing ideas. It does not mean that you have to think the same on every issue. You may have different attitudes and beliefs but true friendship is not hindered by such things.

It may be true to say that a friend is one who is always there supporting you and such a best friend is to be cherished and kept.

There are false friends and fair weather friends who reject you when things get tough.

A false friend is one who claims friendship but abuses you and takes advantage of you with money or, for example, providing endless babysitting services. Such a friend dictates each situation albeit subtlety and will drop you when it suits them.

There are many things which prove a false friend. A false friend is not really a friend at all. They want attention and perhaps your money and popularity.

It has been said that a friend knows the worst about you and yet loves you just the same, whereas false friends embarrass you and annoy you even when you have told them to stop and this proves that they are not a friend at all. A mean friend will push you around and take advantage of you. They break promises, cancel plans at short notice which suggests that they do not want your friendship that much. Notice that friendship increases when they want something and diminishes when they no longer want your help. They may ignore you in company and even criticise you in company. They may be super nice to you one day and slate you the next. They do not always respect you and may want you to change your interests and beliefs.

Real friends respect your moral values and love you the way you are. False friends make major promises and then withdraw them such as sexual activity. If that activity has been beneficial and one withdraws it that indicates a lack of love and affection.

We all make mistakes and sometimes big ones. A true friend will apologise and ask for forgiveness and a true friend will accept this apology once and for all. Forgiveness is forgetting the hurt done.

One of the problems with friendships and relationships comes when there is a disagreement.

Clare loves Tom and her children but Tom is involved in dangerous sports and could die. Clare pleads with him to give up such danger. If he loves her should he not respect her and put her mind at ease?

This problem also exists if the man is in the Army and on combat duty. I would not venture to make a judgment on this but would not wish to live on my nerves over this issue.

I have recently met a married couple who were married in 1938 and have, therefore, been married for 30 years. They put their successful marriage down to a flaming row every day!

Harry is happily married but his wife, Cilla, has suddenly taken to wearing the comparatively new trend of short skirts which embarrasses Harry and all the men look at her. She cannot bend, sit down, go upstairs and it is clear that she shows her underwear often. She knows Harry is very upset but says that she will wear what she likes and he has no right to criticise her. But she is appearing as indecent and as a tart.

If she really loves him she will not do this. Love does not hurt or offend the one you love. Rape is often engendered by such clothes and men (and lesbians) will look and lust. It is often called fashion flirting.

The unwanted pregnancies among teenage girls has now reached epidemic proportions and it is clearly linked with the mini skirt fashion. There is no doubt about this. Girls are flaunting themselves and many of them do it deliberately. An angry father will beat up the boy who got his daughter pregnant and disregard that she was complicit in the act. This happens in London every day.

The pop music scene has created problems. The Beatles have released a song Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds which does not make sense until you take the first letter of the nouns which spells LSD, a dangerous drug. Some pop groups advocate drug taking more blatantly.

The 1960s has been the era of marijuana, hallucinogens, free sex, loud music and outrageous fashion, Sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll is the style of the age. The Rolling Stones are a symbol of rebellion and drugs. At their concerts, there are riots such as on the 8 August 1964 in the Netherlands. They are heavily into drugs and LSD parties and have been charged with serious drug offences.

Drug addiction or drug dependency does affect the reasoning of the drug taker and they can do and say things which are irrational and untrue. To befriend such a person may cost you dear and you cannot expect it to be true friendship.

Marilyn is married to Charlie who is a nice guy but a badly behaved character. He is not honest and often gets drunk and is sometimes most unkind to his wife. If he truly loves her, would he behave like this?

Some people say it is not his fault but the fault of the drink which is an absurd explanation.

In many hospitals, I see patients daily who have mental problems some of which are severe. A large proportion of them have been seriously damaged by spiritualists, mediums and psychics and the lies that these misguided people have expounded. Another large percentage of damaged patients are those who have been involved with the Pentecostal and charismatic groups and their nonsense that you cannot be a Christian unless you speak in tongues churches. Some of them say that you must not see a doctor or take medicine but trust God who can and will heal you if you have faith as asserted in many of this cult's publications.

Another problem is when friends or partners have different friends and believe this is right.

Why this segregation? Most people would find this suspicious and do.

Mary does not want her boy friend Bill to meet her friends and is adamant about this. Bill is puzzled. Does it mean that Mary is living a double life or having an affair? What is she hiding? Is it that her friends are so unlike Bill and are, perhaps, crude and vulgar and living a completely different life style? Is it that Mary thinks that her friends are so unlike Bill that he will not like them and thus cause friction?

It is undoubtedly suspicious and means that Mary does not truly value Bill and her friends are more important than Bill.

Jealousy is always given a bad press but jealousy is the understandable fear of losing a loved one to someone else. It is a natural and commendable attitude.

In this liberal society we now have a wife/ girl friend going out with other men on a one to one basis for a meal and a husband/boy friend going out for a meal or drink with another woman. While it is often said that this is only friendship it can and does create major problems and break up of marriages and relationships. It is far better for the couple to go out with the other party. The divorce rate has soared because of this other one to one friendships. And it foolish to say that there is not harm in this. There is and I can quote very many cases. It is wrong to put an existing relationship into jeopardy.

There are emerging open relationships in which a couple, whether married or not, have sex with other people and no questions asked. This only one step away from couple having exclusive friends of the opposite sex although friends of the opposite sex do not necessarily become unfaithful.

If you have a valued friend, excellent partner or best friend you will not deliberately cause him/her any hurt.

There are shallow women who will not have partner if he has no money or no car. A friend with money and a car is preferred to the point of being dismissive of another friend who has been loyal but has no car or little money.

You cannot have a friend who keeps nagging you, saying the same things constantly particularly when some of those things upset you and are known to upset you and, in addition, the things they say are irrational. You cannot have a friend who is always criticising you, abusing you or accusing you.

Marriages and friendships break up because of constant rows. Generally all rows are started by one party in the relationship.

You cannot have a friend on your terms. It is not so much give and take, but mutual respect.

It is a sad thing to have to admit that one's true friends are very few.

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