

Déjà Vu

“Friend or Foe?”

How Can I Recognize a Friend When I See One?

1. A friend is trustworthy & routinely makes constructive, verbal contributions to my life.
 - **Col. 4:7-9:** “Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. ⁸I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts. ⁹He is coming with Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here.”
2. A friend is someone with whom I can be myself, and sacrificially chooses to walk into my life when others disappointingly walk out.
 - **Col. 4:10-11:** “My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.) ¹¹Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews among my co-workers for the kingdom of God, and they have proved a comfort to me.”
3. A friend unselfishly wants God’s best for me, challenging me to greater heights of spiritual excellence and regularly praying for and with me.
 - **Col. 4:12-13:** “Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. ¹³I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis.”
4. A friend unhesitatingly makes me accountable to stay on track in accomplishing my life mission.
 - **Col. 4:14-18:** “Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings. ¹⁵Give my greetings to the brothers and sisters at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. ¹⁶After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea. ¹⁷Tell Archippus: “See to it that you complete the ministry you have received in the Lord. ¹⁸I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.”