Who Is a True Friend?

At some point in our lives, we've all experienced friendship. Some friends come into our lives because we share similar personalities or interests. Others become close to us through specific situations—school, work, business, or shared spiritual experiences.

Some friendships last through time and distance. Even when circumstances change—whether financially or socially—true friends remain. But others fade quickly, breaking off when life takes a different direction. These are situational friends—seasonal companions.

But regardless of the type of friendship, the question remains:

How can you recognize a true friend

A True Friend Is Willing to Die for You

Imagine you're in critical condition—both kidneys have failed, and your only chance to survive is to receive a kidney transplant.

Suddenly, a friend—someone not even related to you—comes forward and offers both of their kidneys, knowing it will cost them their life. You hesitate, but they insist, and they go through with it. You live; they die.

That’s not just friendship—that’s sacrificial love.

But the reality is, in this world, no one would willingly give their life in that way, especially for someone who doesn’t deserve it.

Yet, someone already has.

> Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.
>
> John 15:13 (NKJV)

That someone is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He didn’t just die for good people or those who loved Him. He died for sinners—His enemies.

> But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
>
> Romans 5:8 (NKJV)

Unlike human friendships, which are often conditional, Jesus' love is unconditional and redemptive. He saw our helpless, sinful state and chose to give His life so we could live eternally. His death on the cross was the ultimate act of love, mercy, and justice—He took our place under the wrath of God.

> For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
>
> Romans 6:23 (NKJV)

Jesus is not just a true friend—He is the only friend who could save your soul.

The Friend Who Sticks Closer Than a Brother

The Bible acknowledges that not all friendships are equal. Some friends may abandon you in difficult times, but Jesus never will.

> A man who has friends must himself be friendly,
>
> But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.
>
> Proverbs 18:24 (NKJV)

This “friend who sticks closer than a brother” is Jesus Christ—Emmanuel, “God with us” (Matthew 1:23). He not only walks with us in this life but also secures our eternity with Him in glory.

How Do You Become a Friend of Jesus?

Jesus said:

> You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.
>
> John 15:14 (NKJV)

Friendship with Jesus begins with obedience. This is not legalism—it’s relational obedience flowing from love and trust. You must respond to His call:

1. Repent – Turn away from your sins and turn to God.

> Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out...
>
> Acts 3:19 (NKJV)

2. Believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior – Confess Him with your mouth and believe in your heart.

> That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and

> believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.
>
> Romans 10:9 (NKJV)

3. Be Baptized by Immersion – As an act of faith and obedience.

> Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
>
> Acts 2:38 (NKJV)

4. Receive the Holy Spirit – Who empowers you to live a new life.

> Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.
>
> Romans 8:9 (NKJV)

When you do this, you enter into a covenant friendship with Christ—not based on religion, but on transformation. You are adopted as a child of God.

> But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.
>
> John 1:12 (NKJV)

A Prayer of Sincere Repentance

If you’re ready to become a friend of Jesus and receive eternal life, you can pray this prayer sincerely and from your heart:

Heavenly Father,

I come to You today, fully aware that I am a sinner. I have broken Your commandments, and I deserve Your judgment. But I also believe that You are a merciful and loving God. I believe that You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for my sins, and that He rose from the dead.

Today, I repent of all my sins. I turn away from the life I've lived and surrender to You completely. Wash me with the blood of Jesus. Make me a new creation.

I confess Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit and help me to live a life that pleases You. From today forward, I belong to You.

Thank You, Lord Jesus, for receiving me, forgiving me, and calling me Your friend.

Amen.

Next Steps in Your New Life

- If you've prayed that prayer with faith, now walk in obedience:
- Leave behind sinful practices and pursue righteousness.
- Get baptized by immersion, as Scripture teaches (Romans 6:4).
- Join a Bible-believing church, where you can grow in God's Word and fellowship with other believers.
- Read the Bible daily and seek a deeper relationship with Jesus.

Remember, salvation is not the end—it's the beginning of a

beautiful, eternal friendship with the Lord.

> Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.
>
> Philippians 1:6 (NKJV)

May the Lord bless you, guide you, and keep you in His grace. Welcome to the family of God!

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