

How do you know when you have a true friend? I'm not talking about Facebook followers. I'm referring to the reality that, "A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother" (Proverbs 18:24). Proverbs also reminds us, "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity" (17:17). The last evening Jesus spent with His disciples was filled with raw emotion. Jesus comforted and encouraged His followers that He and the Holy Spirit would be with them and that they were at the very heart of His plans for the world. Their relationship would continue on an even higher level. They would be true friends.

Under orders

The measure

Friends if....

Friends with....

Personal Application and Interaction

1. How do you know when you have a true friend?
2. Jesus said, *"You are my friends if you do what I command"* (v. 14). He made it abundantly clear, they were to love each other the way He loved them. How are we (Calvary and El Calvario) doing with that assignment?
3. In what ways does the expression "friends" describe your relationship with Jesus and in what ways is it a stretch?
4. Jesus told His disciples, *"I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you"* (v. 15b). What do those words do to give you confidence?
5. What does loving one another have to do with abiding in Christ and bearing fruit? Does it give you joy (v. 11) or does it stimulate performance anxiety in you?



True Friends

John 15:12-15

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