

## **Proverbs for Teachers 25**

A reprint series for LEA members  
January 24, 2021

### **Like Kin**

Prov. 17:17

*Friendship doubles joy and halves grief—Egyptian proverb.*

Teacher-student relationships have come a long way in the last 50 years. If I had suggested to my teacher that I was “family,” she would no doubt have redoubled her rejection of the flawed theory of evolution. To suggest that we were “friends,” would have permanently blemished her social life and my own!

Today is better. Teachers and students in Christian classes can share a kinship that does not damage respect. In fact, many teachers understand how vitally our relationships with our students impact the disciple-making task to which Jesus calls us. Consider Proverbs 17:17: “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.” Notice, though, that our Lord does not say friends and family give in to every whim or permit any and all behavior. Friends and family do, however, support each other.

Teachers usually consider themselves caregivers and support givers. In fact, that’s one perk of teaching. But care and support often flow in the other direction too. We must be ready to accept the loving concern and ministry that students give to us. Experienced teachers know how this works—if they have had the courage and openness to receive ministry from their students. I’ve had the experience of being miserable. Miserable from allergies, that is. When I simply admitted that I felt lousy, my students went out of their way to be cooperative and compassionate, flexible, and understanding.

Sadly, we all experience times when we feel unfriendly, times when we wouldn’t dream of acting in family love toward those we serve. Sin still threatens to break relationships between people, just as it originally broke the relationship between Adam and Eve and God. Despite all that, God sent His Son to make us His children, and in doing so, to create one big family, a family that includes all those who lie under our Lord’s forgiveness and reconciliation. May God bless your relationship with your students. You’ll live together for a long, long time—and after time ends, for all eternity.

**Pray:** *Thank You, Father, for making me Your child—for bringing me into the family of believers. We look forward to eternity in Your family. Amen.*

*A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity—Prov. 17:17.*

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