

# Finding Joy in Christian Friendship

Philippians 2:19-30

**Introduction:** Today's passage gives us a rare look inside the personal relationships that kept the Apostle Paul warm with encouragement and filled with joy as he sat in prison. We have discovered that joy is the beautiful inner condition of optimism that remains constant regardless of life's ups and downs. One of the ways God kept Paul so buoyant in prison was the strength and encouragement he received from two close friends – Timothy and Epaphroditus.

## **Eight Principles of Christian Friendship in Philippians 2:19-30**

1. Friends foster a climate of encouragement and cheer. (vs. 19)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Friends connect at the heart level. (vs. 20a)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Friends take a genuine interest in us and in the people who are important to us. (vs. 20-21)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Friendships are proven in difficult times. (vs. 22)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Friends are as close or closer than your closest family. (vs. 22b)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
1. True friendships are reciprocal. (vs. 23, 25)

2. Friendships are built on personal sacrifice. (vs. 27-28)

3. Friends always want the best for one another. (vs. 29-30)

**Conclusion:** In the end, the one indispensable friend you have is Jesus. Jesus is the friend who gave Himself on the cross to forgive you, cleanse you, redeem you and show you that you are truly loved. How's your friendship with Jesus?