

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

In the Friendship of
Firstborn Brother

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

Proverbs 17:1–28

Theme: Quiet your soul in the friendship of firstborn brother.

Introduction: As conflict and war break out around the globe, they are a reminder that the wages of sin is always death. The human existence is one of strife and fighting, hating and being hated (see Titus 3:3). However, Christians are no longer slaves to sin. Although we often revert back into malice and envy, we have been set free, and we can experience peace and quiet as a result of being united to Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 17 can be broken down into two points:

1. The Lord Is Testing and Waiting (1–15)

- The first six verses set the stage for discussing the Lord's testing.
- Peace is worth a fortune, more valuable than any earthly good.
- God tests us because he wants to refine in us that which has true value while removing what is worthless.
- Verses 7–15 contain various scenarios of testing. You can go through each one and ask, "What is the test that I might face here?"

2. Wisdom Is Close at Hand (16–28)

- The position of the heart is the prerequisite for learning.
- Wisdom is available, but we must take her hand and walk with her.
- Verse 17—"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity"—finds its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ.
 - God has given us a Savior who is a loving friend at all times and a brother who is right there with us in adversity.
- We can quiet our souls, including our speech, when we remember our Brother/Friend who suffered the greatest injustice and yet did not open his mouth.

Questions:

1. How are you seeking to bring peace to your home (see Prov 17:1)?
2. Read verses 7–15. Which "test" stands out to you, and what does it look like to honor God in your response?
3. What is one area of your life where you need to remember that Jesus is your loving Friend and faithful Brother?