

On True Friendship

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In the recesses of every normal human breast there lies a keen longing for a true and intimate friendship. It is a rare privilege, however, for one to possess a friendship that is full and complete. True friendship costs us something which most people are unwilling to pay.

In my opinion it is only the person who is willing to become acquainted with himself that is capable of enjoying any real degree of friendship, and that most people are loath to become acquainted with themselves is evidenced by the great number who are forever trying to cover up or rationalize their faults and weaknesses. Most people, if they chance or are forced to take a look at their true personalities, draw, as quickly as possible, a blind between their eyes and the window through which they can see themselves. Most psychologists would probably agree that the great majority of people are trying to run away from themselves in order to shun the responsibility of viewing their personalities objectively. It is impossible, therefore, for many people to experience a full friendship because a true friend is one who helps us to become acquainted with ourselves.

A beautiful friendship exists when two individuals having kindred spirits are willing not only to counsel and correct one another, but who also rejoice in each other's accomplishments. If they have a mutual desire to see themselves as they are, to correct their own faults, and tactfully to help one another, the possibilities of their friendship are almost unlimited. If we can find a person whom we can trust and who trusts us, we have then taken a large step; a foundation is laid upon which we can build a true and lasting friendship.

Perhaps few of us will ever find the friend who is as much ourselves as we are, but we should go in quest of him. We who are willing to pay the price, however, can find at least one or two friends who approach the degree which we look for in a true friend.

The one who enjoys a high friendship is the one who first desires to be a true friend to someone, and he who enjoys this friendship has a great motivating factor in his life. It inspires him to greater heights and aids him to develop toward the height of his ability.