

Proverbs 27:17

As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

Today's verse is a very popular verse, and is used a lot by men and for men's conferences or men's teachings in general, which is good, but even though it says "*man*" (*So a man sharpens*) we know that it is referring to both men and women.

But if you think about that, it's a good thing, and I say that because when I read today's verse, it reminded me of what Jesus said to His disciples and to us.

† **John 15:14** *You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.*

So if Jesus is our Savior and our Friend, what does that mean? It means that as we hang with Jesus, have a relationship with Jesus, talk to Jesus, and listen to Jesus speak to us (though His word) that Jesus is also sharpening our countenance as our friend.

† *"You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend."*

If you think about that, how cool is that! But we can take this beyond even that. I mean, how many men and women have you heard say that "*I married my best friend*"? So, if we married our best friend or even consider our spouse as our friend, what does that mean? Yep, that we and our spouse (friend) sharpen one another.

Didn't God even say, "*And the LORD God said, 'It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.'*" **Genesis 2:18** and didn't God say that knowing that husbands and wives would sharpen one another in their marriage, in their living life together and in their walk with the Lord!

But then there are those who seem to think that their dog, or cat, or pet, are the ones who help them get through life and those hard times. But in the same chapter in Genesis, God also said, "*So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.*" **Genesis 2:20**

Adam named all the animals, and I emphasize "ALL" the animals, including the dog, cat, hamster, etc., Yet when Adam did, he found out that "*there was not found a helper comparable to him*" or if you think of today's Proverb, he had no one to help sharpen him or simply to walk through life with him through his struggles or triumphs, through the good times are the hard times. And that God did not create animals to be our companions and helpers through life; Therefore, God needed to "*make him a helper comparable to him (man)*" which is another human that would help sharpen and walk with him, because God knew that an animal was not what man needed, Man needed a friend, one comparable to him, Therefore, God created woman, and relationships (friendships) with other humans (Men and women) to happen there after.

So God has brought friends and our spouses into our lives to help sharpen one another and encourage each other. And if you include Jesus as the center of that friendship or marriage, the wisdom God gave to Solomon reminds us that:

† **Ecclesiastes 4:12** *Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.*

Jesus, your friend (or spouse) and yourself = *threefold cord*
And the three of you are sharpening one another.

† **Proverbs 18:24** *A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.*

† **Proverbs 2:10 (MSG)** *Lady Wisdom will be your close friend, and Brother Knowledge your pleasant companion.*

† **Proverbs 18:22** *He who finds a wife finds a good thing, And obtains favor from the LORD.*