

	On Friends
Introduction	According to those who study sociology, companionship is very
	important to people. Most humans seem to have a strong need to
	socialise with others. To punish people, we isolate them from the
	outside world. Yet, what is friend? Some people seem to be
	lonesome and have few, if any, friends. Other people are outgoing
	and sociable and like to be with people, so they seem to have a
	lot of friends. But are the people they know true friends?
Body	We meet a person and then over a period of time, we acquaint
·	ourselves with that person's character and personality. Of course
	that person is doing the same with us. Maybe this happens where
	we work, or with neighbours, or people we go to school with.
	Maybe we chat with someone as we stroll along or walking the
	dog. Most of us want a person who has integrity to become our
	good friend. We want someone who would console us when we
	are in distress or just have a case of the blues. Of course, if we
	want that sort of person to be our friend, we too must be the same
	sort of person.
	Some people, however, are not such good friends. They may idle
	away their time and ours and try to take advantage of the
	friendship. Relationships with people like this are quite
	superficial. Their feelings are fragile and they get upset easily.
	Such people might betray or deceive us if they think it is useful to
	them. It is definitely not a healthy relationship between friends.
Conclusion	It takes time and patience to develop the trust and intimacy of a
	good friendship. But if we are lucky, then we will have a few
	genuine friendships in our lives.