

SUSAN AND DAVID: FACTS ABOUT FRIENDSHIP!

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TAKE SOME TIME

Another thing people tend to take for granted is that it's not just a matter of meeting a person you like and want to have as a friend. The trying doesn't end there! Just because you find that you have a lot in common and that you like one another doesn't guarantee a successful friendship.

You have to take some time to really get to know one another! Find out the little things that makes up the other person—his moods, his dreams, his weaknesses.

You can't build a strong monument on a faulty foundation. Nor can you build a strong friendship on one. But if you have a foundation based on really knowing each other, then that's a monument to be proud of—a good, lasting friendship!

BE IMAGINATIVE

And after you've gotten to know each other's moods, then the next step is to be imaginative.

When you find that a friend is depressed or upset about something, don't just listen sympathetically to his problems then change the subject. His sadness won't end



just by telling you about it. He told you because he's hoping you can help him work things out in his head.

Use your imagination and either focus his concentration on something else, or imagine yourself in his place with the problem! What would you do in his place? Give some thought to whatever is bothering him. You'll be surprised at how many times it helps some of your own problems by helping others with theirs!

BE A FRIEND!

The most important thing to ever remember when you find a person that really means a lot to you is this: be the kind of person you would want as a friend.

Susan and I found in getting to know each other that we both have a favorite book. It's called *The Prophet* by Kahlil Gibran. In it is a chapter about friendship. He explains it very well and we recommend its reading to everyone.

No one ever said that learning to live with each other on this earth is an easy thing to do. But, if you stop and think about it—wouldn't it be terrible to not even try? A person who isn't willing to take a chance, to be reliable, to take some time, to be imaginative in helping—all for the sake of his friend can be very alone. Gibran said it in a different way but I and Susan think he meant the same thing when he wrote:

"Your friend is your needs answered... Let there be no purpose in friendship save the deepening of the spirit... let your best be for your friend. For in the dew of little things the heart finds its morning and is refreshed."

