Proverbs 17:9 & 17

**9. One who conceals an offense seeks love, But one who repeats a matter separates close friends. 17. A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.**

There is not much greater hurt in this world than betrayal. Whether it be if a spouse cheats on you or a friend stabs you in the back. I am pretty positive everyone here has had someone that has betrayed them in some way shape or form. The hurt of that betrayal probably stings to this day. The anger with the person may fade over time but the scars that stay behind never really mend. They stick with us mentally, emotionally and sometimes it comes out physically.

This devotion has to deal with people who do not betray. Those true friends and confidants in this world that things are safe with. We are told to confide in other Christians with our problems, we are told to trust our brothers and sisters in Christ. We are also told as Christians to keep our mouths shut when someone confides in us. When Proverbs says “conceals” this does not mean that we should help people bury bodies, it means that we are to be trusted with confidence in things that others feel safe telling us. It has to do with rumors and the lack of spreading them. The second proverb in verse 17 tells us what we are to be. That is a friend that loves at all times and we as Christians are born for adversity. We are born to go through battles with each other and to help each other fight for each other and ultimately fight for Christ.

We have a friend in Jesus that sticks closer than a brother. We have in Jesus the ultimate example of how we are to help one another and to love one another. We are to always be that confidant that a friend and fellow Christian needs. We are to trust one another with our very hearts and to be able to pour them out to one another without fear of gossip or any type of power plays that are seen in the world. We are to be a safe ear and a best friend to each other just as Christ is to each and everyone who is His.

Remember this week to always keep watch over our tongues and use them to honor God and each other not tear down. Continue in your Word and continue in prayer for each of us here at New Life. Thank You