Why, per Aristotle are only good people friends “on the basis of what they are, that is, because they are good”?

* There are different types of friendship
  + Use
  + Pleasure
  + Virtuous
* It is in good people’s nature to befriend one another (point 1)
  + “Those who wish for their friends’ good for their friends sake are friends in the truest sense” (1156b, 9-10, 219)
  + Virtuous friendships encompass and surpass the other kinds (220)
* People are attracted to others with similar interests (1157b – 23)
  + “bad people do not find joy in one another, unless they see some material advantage coming to them” 1157a – 15
  + Good people will find each other pleasant, because they are “unqualifiedly good”

Why is friendship in the proper sense only possible between good people (1157a 30)?

* Summarize friendship “in the proper sense”
* The friendships are more durable
  + They last so long as the friends remain good (220 top)
  + Other forms can dissolve quickly (221)
* Book 9 ch 4
  + Lays out five qualities that friendships have in common
  + Good men feel have all of these qualities inwardly, therefore they see friends as they do themselves
  + Also discusses how bad people do not love themselves

Why does the virtuous person (the person of good character) need virtuous friends?

* Friendship is necessary for people (find pg)
* “material advantage is desired by those who stand in need, but company is something which is wanted even by men who are supremely happy” 1157b – 20
* proof against slander

Thesis?: True friendship, as described by Aristotle, can be considered one of his so-called “ultimate goods.”

Main ideas:

1. Friendship is an integral part of human life
   1. Early on Aristotle claims that friendship is indispensable for life, which sets the tone for his further discussions on friendship.
   2. page 214
2. Non-virtuous friendships do not have strong enough foundations
   1. To understand exactly why virtuous friendships are the highest form of friendship, Aristotle shows where other forms fail.
   2. Page 221
3. Bad people by nature cannot have virtuous friendships
   1. Aristotle enumerates the characteristics of a true friendship, and points out it is how a virtuous man feels about himself, and so true friendship is based on self-love. He then contrasts this with wicked friendships, establishing again the grandeur of virtuous friendship.
   2. Page 252
4. Friendship must be between equals
5. Similar people naturally attract one another
6. Virtuous Friendship is an activity whose goal tends towards happiness, and therefore is close to “good”

Quotes: (in no particular order)

1. “When people are friends, they have no need of justice, but when they are just, they need friendship in addition.” 1155a – 26 pg 215
2. “their friendship lasts as long as they are good, and <that means it will last for a long time since> goodness or virtue is a thing that lasts.” 1156b – 13 pg 220
3. “bad people do not find joy in one another, unless they see some material advantage coming to them” 1157a – 15 pg 221
4. “Those who wish for their friends’ good for their friends’ sake are friends in the truest sense” 1156b, 9-10, 219
5. “material advantage is desired by those who stand in need, but company is something which is wanted even by men who are supremely happy” 1157b – 20 pg 223
6. “But it is impossible for men to spend their time together unless they are pleasant <in one another’s eyes> and find joy in the same things. It is this quality which seems typical of comradeship.” 1157b – 24 pg 223
7. “Since a good man has every one of the sentiments toward himself, and since he has the same attitude toward his friend as he does toward himself, for his friend really is another self, therefor friendship, too, is regarded as being one or other of these sentiments, and those who harbor them are regarded as friends.” 1166a – 30 pg 253