

Aristotle's Rhetoric II.4 - excerpt on "Friendship"

Again, we feel friendly to those who have treated us well, either ourselves or those we care for, whether on a large scale, or readily, or at some particular crisis; provided it was for our own sake... And also those with whom it is pleasant to live and spend our days: such are the good-tempered, and those who are not too ready to show us our mistakes, and those who are not cantankerous or quarrelsome -- such people are always wanting to fight us, and those who fight us we feel wish for the opposite of what we wish for ourselves -- and those who have the tact to make and take a joke; here both parties have the same object in view, when they can stand being made fun of as well as do it prettily themselves. And we also feel friendly towards those who praise such good qualities as we possess, and especially if they praise the good qualities that we are not too sure we do possess. And towards those who are cleanly in their person, their dress, and all their way of life. And towards those who do not reproach us with what we have done amiss to them or they have done to help us, for both actions show a tendency to criticize us. And towards those who do not nurse grudges or store up grievances, but are always ready to make friends again; for we take it that they will behave to us just as we find them behaving to everyone else. And towards those who are not evil speakers and who are aware of neither their neighbors' bad points nor our own, but of our good ones only, as a good man always will be. And towards those who do not try to thwart us when we are angry or in earnest, which would mean being ready to fight us. And towards those who have some serious feeling towards us, such as admiration for us, or belief in our goodness, or pleasure in our company; especially if they feel like this about qualities in us for which we especially wish to be admired, esteemed, or liked. And towards those who are like ourselves in character and occupation, provided they do not get in our way or gain their living from the same source as we do -- for then it will be a case of "potter against potter": "Potter to potter and builder to builder begrudge their reward." And those who desire the same things as we desire, if it is possible for us both to share them together; otherwise the same trouble arises here too... And, speaking generally, towards those who are really fond of their friends and do not desert them in trouble; of all good men, we feel most friendly to those who show their goodness as friends. Also towards those who are honest with us, including those who will tell us of their own weak points... Things that cause friendship are: doing kindnesses; doing them unasked; and not proclaiming the fact when they are done, which shows that they were done for our own sake and not for some other reason.

1 Cor. 13:4-7 (NIV)

Love is kind

Love always protects

Love does not dishonor others

Love is not easily angered

Love is not proud

Love is patient

Love keeps no record of wrongs

Love always hopes

Love does not delight in evil

Love always trusts

Love does not envy

Love always perseveres

Love rejoices with the truth

Love is kind

Love does not boast

Love is not self-seeking