



## Friendship: Challenge the BS

Society often places stereotypical demands on people. There are many *Beliefs Systems* about what a friend should or should not do. Complete each of the following sentences with the first response that occurs to you. Don't think about it, don't tell us what you think we want you to say, put down the first thing that pops into your head:

1. If I tell a lie and my parents confront me in front of a friend who knows it's a lie, a *real friend* is supposed to

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2. I get loaded at a party and a friend drives me home because I am out of it. Meeting us at the door, my parents ask us what's going on, a *real friend* should

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3. If I need something that a friend can provide but s/he doesn't agree with my planned use of it, a *real friend* should

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### Challenge the BS

Challenging the BS and separating your own *Belief System* from the expectations of your friends is not always easy but can be done. Now do the same exercise from this perspective. Again, write the first thing that comes to mind.

1. If I tell a big lie and my parents confront me in front of our Pastor who knows it's a lie, a devoted Pasture is supposed to

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2.. I get loaded at a party and my Youth Minister drives me home because I am out of it. Meeting us at the door, my parents ask us what's going on, the Youth Minister should

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3. If I need something that my Youth Minister can provide but s/he doesn't agree with my planned use of it, to be a good minister they should

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**Ask yourself this:** Why would you expect your friends to act differently then your clergy? Your clergy stands for what is right. Do you want your friends to do what you all know is wrong just so you can get your way? What exactly do you expect of your friends and is it fair? What is your *bottom line* of friendship?

Turn this paper over and find out what your bottom line of friendship is

## **The Bottom Line**

*There are some normally accepted bottom lines a friend “should” not cross. Which ones do you agree with? Will circumstances change your mind?*

A real friend doesn't rat on someone.

A real friend doesn't hurt feelings by exposing a problem.

A real friend doesn't butt in where they're not welcome.

A real friend doesn't narc to parents or school authorities, ever!

A real friend doesn't get friends in trouble.

*Now ask yourself this: Would I feel guilty if my friend...*

were driving drunk and killed himself or someone else?

got loaded and shot a classmate while out of it?

overdosed on heroin?

got AIDS from a dirty needle?

got pregnant 'cause she didn't know what she was doing one night?

was shot on a drug run turned bad?

*...and I never tried to help, even though I knew there was a drug and alcohol problem?*

Ask yourself: what is my bottom line of friendship?