

## SUMMARY OF THE 7 CHARACTERISTICS OF PARENTAL LOVE:

1- Endearing: "intimate and very affectionate." Derived from "entrails." In Hebrew and Greek, love, compassion, mercy arise from the bowels.

2- Unbreakable and durable: It is like an umbilical cord that cannot be cut. No matter what happens, he endures. The "cord" pulls, pulls and demands to return to the native home and to his own.

3- Free and disinterested: Does not charge or maintain an account. His interest is the well-being of his children.

4- Altruistic: procure the good (benevolent), even at personal cost (sacrificed). "He takes the food out of his mouth to give it."

5- Unconditional: it is given, even if it is not deserved. You do not have to win but receive as a gift.

6- Generative: The love of parents is capable of generating love as a response from their children.

7- Filial Love: The children, feeling and knowing themselves as loved by their parents, respond in love, giving themselves to the parents in gratitude, trust, and dependence.

## THE CHALLENGES IN THE PARENTAL RELATIONSHIP:

1- Inequality: Parents and children are not at the same level. Parents are the ones who initiate and carry the greatest responsibility

2- Lack of Choice: Parents do not choose the children they have, nor do children choose parents. They are given by God as God intended them to be.

3- Imperfectly Perfect: Parents and children that God gives are trusted to be imperfectly perfect for one. Their strengths and weaknesses are perfect for helping me grow in my strengths and weaknesses.

4- Decision: The lack of choice is recognized, but sooner or later the decision is made to accept and subjectively appropriate what has already been objectively given. **It begins as an intimate bond ("umbilical cord") and then a commitment to love is cultivated.**

5- Moral imposition: Whether I like it or not, there will always be a responsibility, duty, and obligation (civil and religious) for their parents and children.

CHARACTERISTICS OF  
FRATERNAL LOVE  
(FRIENDSHIPS)

“Friendship makes us come out of ourselves and project ourselves into a you. It makes us open up to other realities and share our wealth with our friend and receive his treasures from him. For the love of a friend, we begin to love what didn’t attract our attention before. We make their world ours. There is a true exchange and a deep dialogue of hearts” (p.15).

**"it is a free and free commitment to love"** (p.15).

1- Election and Free Commitment: friends are chosen, they are not taxes. There is greater free will (freedom) and less moral imposition compared to the parental obligation. **It begins with a commitment to love and then the intimate bond ("cord") is cultivated.** [Note: The dynamics of the parent-child relationship are reversed.]

2- Equality, Acceptance and Growth: Unlike the parent-child relationship that is unequal, in friendship there is equality. They are on the same plane. Consequently, this demands a shared responsibility of mutual acceptance and help in personal growth.

"It consists of letting the other be as he is and carefully helping him to be what he should be" (p.15).

Caution! Unlike the parent-child relationship, in which the parents have authority over the children to correct and discipline, the friend helps to grow with tactics and caution.

3- Unlike the parent-child, brotherly love is not dependent, but interdependent.

Be careful not to be “codependent”!  
"Psychological disorder characterized by excessive and inadequate concern for solving the problems of others, "adopting a messianic role"; "Even at the cost of ignoring their personal vicissitudes."

[Https://definicion.de/codependencia/](https://definicion.de/codependencia/)

4- Reciprocal and complementary accompaniment is sought.

Caution in not monopolizing!  
Friendship is not exclusive as it would be in marriage, but inclusive. "The desire to hoard the other, to always have it with himself and for himself, is selfishness" (p.17). The friend is inclusive of the friend's friends!

5- Similarity: Although there are attractive and complementary dissimilarities, friendship tends to produce a certain kinship. "Cicero defined friendship by saying: ‘ This is true friendship, in wanting and rejecting the same things ’ (...) When two people are friends, they always hang out together, they want the same thing, they have the same tastes, the

same plans. This generates a similarity or mutual spiritual relationship. Hence the popular saying 'tell me who your friends are and I will tell you who you are' "(p.16).

**"Friendship is a kind of benevolence, beneficence and confidence" (p.15).**

6- Fides: There must be fides (faith): fidelity, trust, and confidentiality in good times and bad (which is when friendships are tested)

<http://etimologias.dechile.net/?fe>

7- Bene: and that there is bene (good): benevolent (goodwill), beneficial (gives help), well-intentioned (has good intentions), well-loved (feelings of love and affection), well-being (Action that one person harmonizes with another), etc.

<https://www.ejemplo.co/palabras-con-el-prefijo-bene-bien-y-ben/#ixzz6JohqU9Yd>

The greatest benefit is altruism, being willing to sacrifice oneself for the good of the other. "Greater love has no one than this: that one lay down his life for his friends" (Jn. 15:13).

## **ANALOGY FOR FRIENDSHIP:**

Friendship begins as a seed that is planted: choice, "commitment to free and free love" (p.15).

It needs its due conditions: equality, acceptance, "healthy interdependence," **fides, bene, altruism.**

It needs to be cultivated (reciprocal and complementary accompaniment) carefully (especially when you want to help it grow).

And finally, it needs to be protected against codependency, hoarding, or the bad grass of selfishness.

If all this is not taken into account, friendship can wither and die.

It should come as no surprise that true friends count on one hand.

## **CHALLENGES IN FRATERNAL RELATIONSHIP**

1- Delicate: Although friendship enjoys greater freedom than in the parent-child relationship, since there is no binding force (the "cord"), or moral imposition (such as duty and obligation for the family), friendship you are at greater risk of losing yourself in carelessness, disagreement, or abandonment.

2- Equality between friends can create the danger of "one blind leading another blind."

3- Unlike the marriage commitment, there is no formal act in which public exchanges of vows are made, before witnesses, minister. There is no sacrament in which one asks for God's blessing and thanks to live friendship. No contract is signed, or a written agreement is established with legal validity where the friends establish their rights and obligations framed within the law for their fulfillment.

4- Unlike the parent-child relationship, friendship can awaken sexual nuances. If the attraction is mutual, this can bring friendship to a marriage level. But if it is not reciprocal, cultivating a platonic friendship will be complicated, frustrating and even impossible. Our sexual nature within the plane of friendship has to be cared for

carefully, honestly and with great caution. Crossing from the friendly plane to the sexual-genital sphere should only happen within the marital context where the ideal conditions for this expression are best found.

5- To minimize the danger of "the blind leading the blind" and possible sexual expressions within non-marital friendships, I advise the principle of "the third person." The intimate exclusivity characteristic of marriage is cultivated between two people. Help open it to a third person