

A Manifesto for *You*, Friend

I will be a safe place. I won't share your confidences.

I will talk about you behind your back, and I will **use words that *build you up and show you off.***

I will defend your reputation rather than contribute to its demise.

I will show humility through encouragement and do my best to let my actions reflect the way *Jesus sees you.*

I will allow a united spirit of completion rather than a divisive spirit of competition enter our friendship.

I will *pray for you* when you ask me to.

I will be accountable and trustworthy ~ **my yes is a yes.**

I will be *for you and not against you,* even when what I say may sting a bit.

I will be there to share in both hard and good, to **divide the sorrow and double the joy.**

I will give your kids extra *grace* when they are ornery in front of me. And when they are having a moment, the only thought I'll entertain is it must be your turn for the hard day. Yesterday was mine. And probably tomorrow, too.

I will forgive you when you make a mistake. While I can't control how you behave towards me, I can control how I behave towards you. And I'll do my level best to *err on the side of grace and love.* Because heaven knows I need to receive it as much as I need to give it.



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