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*“Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy.” ~Proverbs 27:6*

 I am one of those people who is very trusting. Over the years I have found that this can be a drawback. There are those who will pretend to be a friend. To your face, they are all kindness and compliments, but behind your back, they are vicious and condemning. This is what I think of when I read this verse. Why would we want to have the kisses and fawning of an enemy? It is insincere at best and damaging at its worst.

 A sincere friend will be honest with you. They will tell you the truth, even if it hurts because they want what’s best for you. Ephesians 4:15 says, “Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.”

 In our efforts to be more like Christ, we need to speak the truth, and we need to do it in love. It isn’t a sign of love to coddle someone and tell them that what they are doing is O.K. when it’s not. Neither is it a sign of love to loudly point out another’s faults. Love doesn’t constantly wound for the sake of wounding. It doesn’t think itself better than others. No, if we love, we will come alongside of those we love and help them. As 1 Corinthians 14:26 says, all things should be done for building up and strengthening.

 So, make the decision today to be a true friend instead of an enemy.