

PLAIN SPEECH

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“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech” (2 Cor. 3:12)

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WHO ARE YOU HANGING OUT WITH: FRIEND OR FOE?

This article is about choosing friends. So, just how does one go about said endeavor? One must go to the Bible, of course! To do otherwise is to invite disaster and ruin (**Proverbs 3:3-5; 14:12; 1 Corinthians 3:19**).

The Proverbs provide a wealth of insight about selecting companions. The following verses all come from that wonderful section of God’s Word.

The types of people we should avoid befriending:

- ✓ Those who choose to live in sin (**2:10-15**)
- ✓ Loose women and adulterers (**2:16-19; 5:3-8; 6:20-32**)
- ✓ Those who pervert that which is known to be right (**24:21**)
- ✓ Foolish people – those who think sin is a small matter (**13:20; 14:9**)
- ✓ Those who plot violence and other trouble (**1:10-16; 24:1-2**)
- ✓ Talebearers – those who can’t be trusted to keep a secret (**20:19**)
- ✓ Hot-tempered people (**22:24-25**)
- ✓ Winebibbers and those who serve their belly (**23:20-21; 28:7**)
- ✓ Those who are insincere in their friendship (**27:14; 27:6**)

The types of people we should choose to befriend:

- ✓ Wise people, because they will make us wiser (**13:20**)
- ✓ Those who are willing to correct or rebuke us (**27:6**)
- ✓ Those who will give us good counsel (**27:9**)
- ✓ Those who will help sharpen our character (**27:17**)
- ✓ Those who will love us at all times (**17:17**)
- ✓ Those who will stick closer to us than a brother (**18:24**)

If we blow off God’s wisdom and choose to befriend “just anybody” then:

- ✓ We will be seduced; i.e. led astray (**12:26**)
- ✓ We will conform to their ways and ensnare our souls (**22:24-25**)
- ✓ We will have things we never want repeated told to anyone who will listen (**20:19**)
- ✓ We will waste our money on sinful living (**29:3; 23:21**)
- ✓ We will get caught up in the calamity and ruin that comes to them (**24:21-22**)
- ✓ We will be destroyed (**7:1-5; 24-27; 13:20**)

I’m sure there is much more that can be gleaned from Proverbs concerning friendship. I will leave those gems for you to mine out. But, in closing, I will ask you this question: have you transgressed God’s will by throwing your hat in with willful sinners and slumming with the ungodly? Really now, have you? The question demands an honest response in that your soul’s salvation depends upon it (**James 4:4**).

“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?” (2 Corinthians 6:14)