

PLAIN SPEECH

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

By Scott Parker

YOU CANNOT BE FRIENDS WITH EVERYBODY

While it is certainly true that our mission to win the world for Christ calls us to interact with worldly people, it is also equally true that we must be ever vigilant to not be unequally yoked to those persons who are not Christians (**2 Corinthians 6:14-18; James 4:4, et al**).

As Christians we are instructed to choose our friends wisely (**1 Corinthians 15:33**). In fact, Paul, writing under inspiration, set forth a laundry list of folks that we would do well not to “pal” around with (**2 Timothy 3:1-5**). The remainder of this article will enumerate and define that list for your consideration.

According to God we just cannot be “buddy-buddy” with those who are:

1. **“Lovers of their own selves”** (philautos) - a selfish person; one too intent on his own interests.
2. **“Covetous”** (philarguros) - greedy; in love with carnal appetites.
3. **“Boasters”** (alazon) - a braggart; one who swaggers; one who makes more of himself than reality justifies.
4. **“Proud”** (huperephanos) - arrogant; overbearing; haughty; high minded; one who treats others with contempt.
5. **“Blasphemers”** (blasphemos) - a slanderer; one who is abusive; one who speaks fondly of evil.
6. **“Disobedient to parents”** (apeithes) - not compliant; one who refuses to be persuaded of the known right.
7. **“Unthankful”** (acharistos) - ungrateful; one who does not verbally give thanks; ungracious.
8. **“Unholy”** (anosios) - impious; wicked; one who indulges in the profane.
9. **“Without natural affection”** (astorgos) - heartless; without affection for one’s family.
10. **“Trucebreakers”** (aspondos) - one who will not reconcile; unforgiving; one who cannot abstain from hostilities.
11. **“False accusers”** (diablos) - malicious gossips; those who slander; men who resemble the devil in mind and will.
12. **“Incontinent”** (akrates) - without self-control; those who indulge; powerless to exercise self-control.
13. **“Fierce”** (anemeros) - brutal; savage; used often with reference to animals not tamed.
14. **“Despisers of those that are good”** (aphilagathos) - one who seduces others away from God to evil.
15. **“Traitors”** (prodotes) - one who is treacherous; a betrayer; one who abandons others in danger.
16. **“Heady”** (propetes) - reckless; rash; thoughtless; running headlong into a situation.
17. **“Highminded”** (tuphoo) - conceited; crazed; demented.
18. **“Lovers of pleasure”** (philedonos) - overly fond of worldly pleasures.

How any Christian could ever think that it is okay to casually hang around with anyone who exhibited even one of the items on the “devil’s laundry list” is beyond me. Yet, I have seen Christians (so called) do it days without number and without batting an eye, as if God was joking when He authored what we today call **2 Tim. 3:1-5**.

If it is you, why not do yourself a favor that will pay dividends in eternity - why don’t you get some new friends? I know some real Christians I would like you to meet.