

Who Are Your Friends?

(1 Corinthians 15:33)

Friends are one of the great blessings and treasures of life. A desire to have friends was put in our hearts by God (Genesis 2:18). Throughout the Bible we find numerous friendships (ex: David and Jonathan, Jesus and His apostles, Moses and Joshua).

Even though friends are gifts to help satisfy our need for companionship, God also admonishes us to choose our friends wisely (1 Corinthians 15:33).

I. Beware of having bad friends.

A. They will let you down.

1. Joseph was let down by his brothers (Genesis 37:18-36).
2. David was let down by Saul (1 Samuel 18:6-11).
3. Jesus was let down by Peter and Judas (John 15:13, 15; Matthew 26:47-50, 69-75; Psalm 41:9).

B. They will bring you down.

1. Who wants to be around someone full of pessimism and doubt?
2. Who wants to be around someone spreading negative energy (Proverbs 22:24)?

C. They will lead you down.

1. They can lead you down the path of destruction (Proverbs 13:20).
2. This is exactly what Amnon's friend (Jonadab) did to him (2 Samuel 13:1-14).

II. Qualities to look for when picking friends:

A. Trustworthiness

1. Pick friends you can confide in (Proverbs 17:9).
2. Pick friends who aren't gossips (Proverbs 20:19).
3. Pick friends who will stick up to you (Proverbs 17:17; 18:24).

B. Encouraging

1. Pick friends full of positive energy.
2. Pick friends who will be happy for you when you succeed (Romans 12:15).
3. Pick friends who will build you up during rough times (John 14:1-3).

C. Respectful

1. Pick friends who respect your faith and desire to be committed to it.
2. Pick friends who won't pressure you to do sinful things.
3. Pick friends who are unselfish (Philippians 2:3-4).

D. Godly

1. Pick friends who respect God and will help you go to heaven.
2. Pick friends who can make you better in your service to God (Proverbs 27:17).
3. Pick friends who will confront you when you are wrong (Galatians 2:11-14).
4. Pick friends who will give you godly counsel (Proverbs 27:9).
5. Pick friends who you share the same values and beliefs (Amos 3:3).

Conclusion: The number one friend you need is Jesus. He is the perfect example of everything a good friend encompasses! Are you His friend (John 15:14)?