



# Does It Matter Who You Hang With?

## ReGroup

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### Proverbs 13:20

Walk with the wise and become wise; associate with fools and get in trouble. (NLT)

Walk with the wise and become wise; for a companion of fools suffers harm. (NIV)

Be with wise men and become wise. Be with evil men and become evil. (TLB)

### Proverbs 18:24

One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. (NIV)

There are “friends” who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother. (NLT)

There are “friends” who pretend to be friends, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. (TLB)

### Proverbs 12:26

The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray. (NIV)

The godly give good advice to their friends; the wicked lead them astray. (NLT)

The good man asks advice from friends; the wicked plunge ahead—and fall. (TLB)

### 1 Corinthians 15:33

Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.” (NIV)

Don’t be fooled by those who say such things, for bad company corrupts good character.” (NLT)

Don’t be fooled by those who say such things. If you listen to them you will start acting like them. (TLB)

### John 15:14 OF JESUS

You are my friends if you do what I command. (NIV)

You are My friends if you do what I tell you. (NLT)

You are my friends if you obey me. (TLB)

### John 15:13 OF JESUS

**Greater love** has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. (NIV)

No one can have **greater love** than to give his life for his friends. (NLT)

And here is how to measure it—the greatest **love** is shown when a person lays down his life for his friends; (TLB)

### John 15:15 OF JESUS

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you **friends**, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. (NIV)

I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. (NLT)

I no longer call you slaves, for a master doesn't confide in his slaves; now you are my friends, proved by the fact that I have told you everything the Father told me. (TLB)

### Proverbs 17:17

A **friend** loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity. **CONSISTENT & PERSEVERING**

### Psalms 119:63

I am a **friend** to all who fear you, to all who follow your precepts. **HIS GUIDELINE. HE CHOOSES**

### Proverbs 27:6

Wounds from a **friend** can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses. **SPEAK STRAIGHT & WANT YOUR BEST**

### James 4:4

You adulterous people, don't you know that **friendship** with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a **friend** of the world becomes an enemy of God. **CAN'T HAVE IT BOTH WAYS**

## UNDERSTAND THE POWER OF PEER PRESSURE

- We want to be accepted really bad? We want to belong? be included?
- Mocked, pushed, teased, pressured to join in – engage to be accepted.
- Our insecurity pushes us to compromise our values and views
- Our lack of confidence and need to belong cause us to CAVE to their wishes/whims

### 1. We become like those we hang around with.

- You absorb their **VALUES** – Their standards/morals become yours (JOKES)
- You embrace their **VIEWS** – You start seeing life as they do.
- You copy their **VICES** – You start doing the things they do.
- You cover their **VIOLATIONS** – You lie to cover their mistakes.
- You sound like their **VERBAGE** – You start talking like them
- You target their **VICTIMS** – You start trashing people they trash (BULLY)
- You join their **VIOLENCE** – You join in questionable even illegal activities

## **2. You will become the AVERAGE of YOUR 5 CLOSEST FRIENDS.**

- If you became like those you currently hang with, what will you be like?
- Name the 5 that you spend most of your time with...
- What will you become like?
- Do you need to make some friendship adjustments?

## **3. God says it clearly, CHOOSE YOUR FRIENDS WISELY.**

- Do your friends bring the best out of you?
- Do they accept you for who you are?
- Do they respect what you believe?

## **4. Are you strong enough to stand up to them?**

- Or are you a chameleon? Blend in – look like you are agreeing.
  - Even deny what you believe to be accepted?
  - Live the world of Compromise.
  - Friendship and belonging is more important than your beliefs/values
  - There are 2 YOUS – two faced.
  - You run with two crowds – change to fit the setting.
  - YOU Fold up or collapse like a cheap tent
- OR
- Are you willing to stand alone? Got some BACKBONE!!!
  - Do you know what you believe and why?
  - Can you defend your position?
  - Can you walk away when compromise is asked of you

## **5. GOD wants to pick our friends. Will you let Him?**

## **6. Are you a FRIEND OF GOD or Friend of the World?**

## **7. Is Jesus your closest Friend?**

- Is He even on the inside? Part of your circle of Friends?
- Acquaintance? Someone you kinda know...
- One you used to be friends with but you have lost touch with?
- Maybe you have never really met Him?
- What are the signs you Hang with JESUS?
- You live like you know Him?