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Friends

1 Corinthians 15:33

Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.

Friends. We all have them. Have you ever thought about the friends you have? Are they good friends? I’m not talking “good” meaning are they fun to be with. I’m talking “good” in the way that Yahweh says is good.

Don’t get me wrong. It’s great to have friends that we can have fun with. But, are those friends helping or hurting you in serving Yahweh? Consider...

Deuteronomy 13:6

If your very own brother, or your son or daughter, or the wife you love, or your **closest friend** secretly entices you, saying, “Let us go and worship other gods” (gods that neither you nor your fathers have known, gods of the peoples around you, whether near or far, from one end of the land to the other), do not yield to him or listen to him....

In other words, if someone tries to get you to do something that is against Yahweh’s word, you need to stop hanging out with them. It doesn’t mean you should stop being friendly to them. It just means you should not make them a close friend. Does that make sense? We must understand that we can be friendly to someone while not making them a close friend. In fact, we should be friendly to everyone.

But, just because you are friendly to someone, doesn’t mean they should become a close friend. This doesn’t mean we should be rude or mean to them. We just can’t make them a close friend.

SO, what kind of friends do you have? Do they help you grow in doing what’s right with Yahweh’s word? Or do they tempt you to do things that are wrong.

Remember,

1 Corinthians 15:33

“Bad company corrupts good character.”

But what exactly is “bad company”? It’s anyone who tempts you to do what is wrong. That is bad company.

Like when someone tells you to just lie to your teacher or parents. That’s bad company.

Like when someone wants you to keep secrets from your parents. That’s bad company.

Like when someone wants you to do something that you know you shouldn’t do. That’s bad company.

Or like when someone wants you to listen to music that you know you shouldn’t listen to. That’s bad company.

Get the picture?

Those are the kind of friendships we should avoid. The Bible gives us other verses on this as well. Consider.

Proverbs 12:26

A righteous man is **cautious in friendship**, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

So are you cautious in making friends?

And what about THIS verse?

Proverbs 13:20

He who walks with the wise **grows wise**, but a companion of fools suffers harm.

You see? When we make smart choices in making friends, it can really be a good thing. Yet if we make bad choices, it can be really bad.

So, we need to understand that we really need to be careful in who we make friends with.

NOW, here is the BIG question... What kind of friend... are YOU? Are you a good friend? Or, are you the friend others need to use caution around. Be the friend to others that you want. Encourage others to walk in the truth of Yahweh’s word every day. Be the example they need you to be. Help others. Be kind and compassionate.

We all need a good friend. So let it start with you.

We hope you have enjoyed this teaching. Now it's up to you to study it for yourself. That's the only way to grow.

Shalom.

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