

# WISDOM IN CHOOSING FRIENDS

## PROVERBS 17:17

Sermon Series: Walking Wisely

# Introduction

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- The dearest treasure of your life—second only to your relationship with Jesus Christ—is a close friend.
- Proverbs 17:17 (NKJV), “*A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.*”

## Introduction (cont'd)

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- God's foremost wisdom regarding our friendships and business associates is this: be careful whom you choose.
- Never assume that just because a person seeks you out or that you are in close proximity to a person that God has sent them to you. Ask Him!

## Introduction (cont'd)

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- What is your criterion for choosing a person to be your friend?
- Do you choose Christians to be your friends?
- Anytime you put a qualifier of “but” on a relationship with an unbeliever, you’re heading for a fall.
- 1 Cor.15:33 (NASB), “*Do not be deceived: ‘Bad company corrupts good morals.’*”

# I. People Who Should Not Be Your Friends

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- ***Avoid the person who is a gossip.***
- Proverbs 20:19 (NKJV), *“He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets; therefore do not associate with one who flatters with his lips.”*
- If a person slanders or gossips about other people to you, you can be assured that person will gossip about you to others.

## Who should not be your friends (cont'd)

- ***Avoid the person who is quick-tempered.***
- When you make friends with an angry person, you are going to find yourself developing an angry spirit. What angers him is likely to anger you. The way he expresses anger is likely to become the way you express anger.
- Proverbs 22:24-25 (NKJV), *“Make no friendship with an angry man, and with a furious man do not go, <sup>25</sup> Lest you learn his ways and set a snare for your soul.”*

## Who should not be your friends (cont'd)

- ***Avoid the person who is rebellious.***
- The person who is loyal only to himself cannot be loyal to a friend. Avoid friendship with such a person—he can turn on you very quickly and become your enemy.
- Proverbs 24:21-22 (NKJV), “*My son, fear the LORD and the king;  
Do not associate with those given to change;  
<sup>22</sup> For their calamity will rise suddenly,  
And who knows the ruin those two can bring?*”

## Who should not be your friends (cont'd)

- ***Avoid the person who is self-indulgent.***
- The person who is self-indulgent is not in control of his desires. His self-indulgence may be manifested as gluttony, immoral behavior, or greed.
- Proverbs 28:7 (NKV), “*Whoever keeps the law is a discerning son, but a companion of gluttons shames his father.*”

## Who should not be your friends (cont'd)

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- *Avoid the person who is sexually immoral.*
- We live in an age when people are prone to say, “What they do behind closed doors is their business.” The truth of God’s Word is that we are to judge morality-not judge a person, but judge behavior.

## Who should not be your friends (cont'd)

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- Proverbs 16:28 (NKJV), “*A perverse man sows strife, and a whisperer separates the best of friends.*”
- Proverbs 29:3 (NKJV), “*Whoever loves wisdom makes his father rejoice, but a companion of harlots wastes his wealth.*”

## Who should not be your friends (cont'd)

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- “Wealth” in the second verse refers to a person’s total substance—one’s physical, mental, and emotional health and energy, material resources, integrity, reputation, relationships, and Christian witness.
- When we engage in sexual immorality we lose much of who we are as well as what we have.

## Who should not be your friends (cont'd)

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- ***Avoid the person who is a fool.***
- A fool is a person who has arrogantly chosen his own way over God's way. He has pushed God out of his life. He has refused all discretion, discernment, or wisdom that God's Word has to offer.

## Who should not be your friends (cont'd)

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- Proverbs 15:20-21 (NKJV),
- *“A wise son makes a father glad,  
But a foolish man despises his mother.  
<sup>21</sup> Folly is joy to him who is destitute of  
discernment,  
But a man of understanding walks  
uprightly.”*

## II. The Impact of a Good Friendship in Your Life

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- ***A friendship can delight you.***
- A good friend will bring joy and pleasure to you. You should enjoy being with or going places with a friend. A wise, godly friend causes you to feel acceptance and love.
- ***A friendship can develop you.***
- A good friend should help you to develop as a person.

## The impact of a good friendship in your life. (cont'd)

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- *A friendship can “drive” you to excellence.*
- A good friend can be highly motivating. A good friend builds up so that we want to become and to accomplish all that our friend believes we can be and do.

### III. The Negative Impact of Friendship

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- *A friendship can disillusion you.*
- *A friendship can distress you.*
- *A friendship can drag you down.*
- *A friendship can destroy you.*

# Friendships changes us.

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- *What impact are your friends having on you?*
- Are your friends building you up, bringing you blessing, and drawing you closer to Christ?
- Are they a genuine delight to you, a help to you, an encouragement to you?
- Are you a better person because of the friends you have?

## Friendships changes us. (cont'd)

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- Or are your friendships marked by disappointment, disillusionment, or damaging emotions?
- Are your friends leading you to engage in behaviors that are ungodly?
- Are they encouraging you to adopt opinions or to hold beliefs that are contrary to God's Word?
- Are you becoming less joyful, less productive, or less godly as the result of a friendship?

## Friendships changes us. (cont'd)

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- The unalterable fact is this...friendships have an impact on our lives-for better or worse.
- *What kind of friend are you?*

# Invitation

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