Proverbs 1:8-19 (Page 527)

1. You are ________________ by the ________________ you keep.

Proverbs 12:26, 1 Kings 12:13-14
Casual friends are the result of circumstances. Close friends are the result of choice.

a. The company of fools.

Proverbs 22:24-25, 16:28, 23:20-21, 1 Corinthians 15:33,

b. The company of the wise

Proverbs 13:20

2. Seek the company of ____________ friends, not _____________ friends.

Proverbs 14:7, 13:20

a. The characteristics of a lethal friend:

Selfish – Proverbs 1:11-14, 18:1
Opportunistic – Proverbs 19:4
Slanderer – Proverbs 20:19
Will lead you astray – Proverbs 22:24-25, Jude 1:19
Flattering – Proverbs 29:5, 27:6

b. The characteristics of a loyal friend:

Loyal – 27:10
Loving – Proverbs 17:17
Forgiving – Proverbs 17:9
Confidential – Proverbs 11:13
Honest – Proverbs 27:5-6
Sharpening – Proverbs 27:17, 27:9
Sensitive – Proverbs 25:17, 27:14

3. We all need a ________________ friend.

Proverbs 18:24

“He who would be happy here must have friends; and he who would be happy hereafter, must above all things, find a friend in the world to come…” – Charles Spurgeon
HEARING AND DOING

Each week this section will provide next steps for going deeper with the sermon material, as well as preparing for discussion in your Grow Group. Bring this sheet with you to your group meeting.

1. The Bible has several warnings about friendships and how they can influence us. Read each passage and write down a kind of person, and whether we should AVOID or ENCOURAGE such a friendship:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scripture</th>
<th>Kind of Person</th>
<th>Avoid/Encourage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Corinthians 6:14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Luke 7:34</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>James 4:4</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Corinthians 5:9-13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. How easily do other people influence you? Rate yourself at different periods in your life:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Easily Swayed</th>
<th>Stand Your Ground</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age 14</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 22</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current day</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Read Proverbs 1:8-19 and answer these questions:

1. There are two different victims mentioned at the hands of the sinners in this passage. Who are they?

2. There are two different kinds of theft mentioned in this passage. What are they?

3. Foolish friends suffer from a form of blindness over the results of their actions. What is smarter than a foolish friend?

4. Below are the characteristics mentioned for a loyal friend. For each one, give yourself a score from 1 (not true of you) to 5 (very true of you):

   ______ Loyal   ______ Confidential   ______ Sharpening   ______ Forgiving
   ______ Loving   ______ Honest   ______ Sensitive