

THE CONSEQUENCES OF HAVING FOOLISH FRIENDS

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(Proverbs 13:20)

It is dangerous to be-friend someone **WITHOUT** examining their character. Who you invite into your life to be a friend will alter **EVERYTHING** around you. They will either position you to succeed or fail. Deciding who becomes your friend will be one of the most important decisions you will make.

Selecting people to be your friends should **NOT** be a careless act. It should be a thoughtful process. Unlike your enemies, your friends will have the permission to influence you. Your friends will have the permission to lead you into places where you do not belong. Your friends will have the opportunity to construct your core values.

NEVER CHOOSE FRIENDS BASED ON HOW
THEY TREAT YOU. CHOOSE THEM BASED ON
THEIR CHARACTER!

WHY?

People can treat you well, yet, at the same time influence you to do awful things. **WHEN YOU FOCUS YOUR ATTENTION ON HOW PEOPLE TREAT YOU AND IGNORE WHERE THEY ARE LEADING YOU, YOU WILL SUFFER HORRIBLE CONSEQUENCES.** Think about it. Doesn't the devil treat his children well? Yes. He treats them very well. If he didn't treat them well, they would not be content with the pleasures of the world.

The devil treats his children well by encouraging them to indulge in meaningless pleasures, while leading them to hell. The devil has the ability to treat you well. However, he does not have the ability to influence you to walk

righteously as he has **NO CHARACTER**. Character is what separates the people who tell you what you **WANT** to hear versus the people who tell you what you **NEED** to hear.

It is virtue that separates liars from truth tellers. When you are deciding who will become your friends test their moral compass by **WATCHING** what they do and how they do it. For example...

- **WATCH** and **SEE** how a person uses the information you share with them. Will they keep it close to their chest or will they tell their neighbor?
- **WATCH** and **SEE** how a person will support you when you do something positive. Will they support you by **CONTRIBUTING** to your endeavor or will they sit on the sidelines and become an arm chair professor?
- **WATCH** and **SEE** how a person will reach out to you when they **DO NOT** need you. If people **ONLY** seek

you out when they need something, that potential friendship will become very abusive.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DO NOT TEST A PERSON'S MORAL COMPASS?

Proverbs 13:20

When you do not test a person's moral compass you will **SUFFER** because you've be-friended a fool. Fools are not the recipients of God's blessings. They are the recipients of divine consequences. Proverbs 13:20 says, "*Spend time with the wise and you will become wise, but the friends of fools will suffer.*" Be-friending foolish people will cause you to endure **UNNECESSARY** suffering. 1st Corinthians 15:33 says, "*Bad company will corrupt good character.*"

Having foolish friends will cause you to **REAP** trouble, losses, pain and hardships. For example, if you ride in a car with a foolish friend their behavior could potentially,

bring you trouble with the law as a result of warranting negative attention. Even though you are innocent by action, you are **GUILTY BY ASSOCIATION**.

People who are friends with fools will suffer because they are **CONNECTED** to foolishness. You do not have to do anything wrong to suffer **UNNECESSARILY**. Connecting to the wrong person will cause you to suffer unnecessarily. **FOOLISH PEOPLE ARE POISON TO YOUR PROGRESS!** Every benefit you want to receive will depend on the type of connection you establish.

HERE'S WHAT I MEAN:

(A connection is symbolic of an agreement.)

- You cannot benefit from the fruits of prosperity when you are **CONNECTED** to impoverished people.
- You cannot benefit from wise counsel when you are **CONNECTED** to foolish advice.

- You cannot benefit from a loving relationship when you are **CONNECTED** to an abusive relationship.
- You cannot benefit from the blessings of God when you are **CONNECTED** to a sinful lifestyle.

Whomever you are connected to will precipitate what will come to you. It is urgent that you examine who you are connected to. Knowing this information will determine if you are rewarded by God or punished by Him.

Make sure you choose your friends wisely in order to **AVOID** the weight of suffering. If your life is consumed with confusion, pain, losses, trauma, drama and misfortune, due to your **ASSOCIATIONS**, you are suffering unnecessarily.

YOU CANNOT PRAY THIS TYPE OF PAIN AWAY. IT
WILL ONLY BE REMOVED WHEN YOU DECIDE TO
SEPARATE FROM FOOLISH FRIENDS.

Here are some wisdom keys to help you identify if you are connected to foolish friends:

- If you experience **MORE LOSSES** with them than wins, you are connected to foolish friends.
- If you attract **MORE TROUBLE** than peace, you are connected to foolish friends.
- If you have **MORE MISERABLE TIMES** than happy times when you are with them, you are connected to foolish friends.
- If you are **DIGRESSING MORE** than progressing, you are connected to foolish friends.
- If more doors are **CLOSING FOR YOU** than opening to you, you are connected to foolish friends.

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