

What happens when you be-friend people?

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(1st Corinthians 15:33)

When you be-friend people you are not thinking about what could happen. Unfortunately, something does happen that is out of your control. The things that happen outside of your control are the things that have occurred before you. The Bible teaches us to show ourselves friendly to those whom we desire to be friends with.

However, there is a part the Bible teaches that is not regularly mentioned. When you be-friend people you **INHERIT THIER ENEMIES AND THEIR ALLIES**. The Bible warns us about connecting with the wrong people. 1st Corinthians 15:33 says, "*Do not be misled: Bad company corrupts good character.*" A friendship is very similar to a marriage.

The saying goes, when you marry your spouse you are actually marrying their family. That phrase applies to friendships as well. You will **INHERIT THE HISTORY** from whomever you choose to be-friend.

Many people have inherited workplace hostility because they be-friended people who were considered rebels in the workplace. Many people have been persecuted at their schools because they be-friended a person who was considered to be a trouble maker.

BEFORE YOU BE-FRIEND PEOPLE, REVIEW THIER REPUTATION!

If you be-friend a person who has a righteous reputation **YOU WILL** inherit some **FRIENDS** and **FOES**. However, these foes will be fighting goodness which makes you **BLAMELESS** in the sight of God. Regardless of who you be-friend you will inherit their enemies **AND** their friends.

In making a decision of this magnitude a **WISE** person chooses a friend whose values are aligned with God's. For example, it is wise to have evil people as your enemy. It is wise to have religious people as your enemy. It is wise to have these types people as your enemy because these types of people are God's enemy.

A wise person understands that it is never a good thing to be on the **OPPOSITE** side of God's goodness. Out of ignorance, many people inherit God as an enemy because they choose the wrong friends. If a person's values are against the Bible they are friends with the devil.

If a person's ways grieves the Holy Spirit they are an enemy to the Holy Spirit. Unfortunately, many people lose favor with God because of their foolish decisions. They do not understand the seriousness of choosing righteous friends.

Remember Judas?

Judas was one of Jesus hand picked disciples. While he was friends with Jesus he had favor with the Heavenly Father. When Jesus did miracles, Judas benefitted. When Jesus was honored by the masses, Judas was also admired by the masses as being one of his chosen followers.

When Jesus received money from the people Judas was appointed to be his treasurer. When Jesus was persecuted by the Pharisees Judas was targeted also. As long as Judas was Jesus **FRIEND** everything good was drawn to him and everything bad was against him.

However, when Judas betrayed Jesus everything changed. He lost favor with Jesus and His Heavenly Father. The Pharisees and Sadducees became his ally. Jesus became his enemy and goodness drew away from him.

Matthew 27:3-5 says, *“Judas saw that they had decided to kill Jesus. He was the one who had handed him over. When he saw what happened, he was very sorry for what he had done. So he took the 30 silver coins back to the priests and the older leaders.*

Judas said, “I sinned. I handed over to you an innocent man to be killed.” The Jewish leaders answered, “We don’t care! That’s a problem for you, not us.” So Judas threw the money into the Temple. Then he went out from there and hanged himself.”

Judas decision to be-friend the wrong people cost Him his future, destiny and ultimately his life. Judas did not understand what happens when a person chooses to be-friend someone. His **LACK** of wisdom cost him his life. Learn from the mistake of Judas!

Do not connect with people who are against God. Do not be-friend people who dishonor the Bible. **IT IS BETTER TO HAVE RIGHTEOUS ENEMIES THAN DEMONIC FRIENDS.** A person’s reputation will explain who they are, what they are and how they think. Do not ignore a

person's reputation. Believe it! This will **PREVENT** you from connecting to the wrong people.

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