

Ungodly Friendship

Possibly this could be considered an odd lesson title so let me explain what it means. In this lesson I hope to stress the importance of a Christian being careful about picking their friendship. In our daily walk of life, we are around all kinds of people at work, at school, just being out and about town. Many people in our lives are people we are not choosing to hang around and spend time with they are co-workers, people in our classes at school, etc. People we may or may not have much in common with but in our free time are not really around very much, while they can have an influence on our lives, they are not really what this lesson is about. The people that we choose to spend our time with, and enjoy being around will have some level of influence on us. The people we choose to be around, we normally call our friends, they are what this lesson is about. Christians need to choose their friends wisely because they can have a strong influence on us. If we are picking Christians as friends hopefully, they will help us be stronger Christians. However, if we have a lot of friends in our lives that are involved in activities God does not want us involved in, isn't it possible they could have a negative influence on a Christian? Now it is not possible to live life in a bubble and never be around non-Christians but shouldn't we consider how much time we spend around people who might influence us away from Christianity? This will be the main focus of this lesson.

Scriptures

Psalms 1:1-6 “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish” God knows who is righteous and who is not. We need to work on our skills at discerning that too. While we can certainly be fooled and God cannot. We can learn to see by the actions of others what is important in their lives. People will be learning by our actions what we find to be important. Don't we make it easier on ourselves to lead a life pleasing to God if we attempt to have people in our lives that also want to please God? Don't we make our life goal of pleasing God more difficult with having many friends that don't care about God?

Proverbs 1:10 “My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not” If a Christian has a friend that constantly wants to get them to do something sinful, even if the world sees it as fun, are they really your friend? Do they really want you to go to Heaven? That does not sound like a good friend does it?

Proverbs 13:20 “He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed” If a Christian is constantly out with a crowd that surrounds them with temptations, wouldn't it be really difficult to never give into temptations? Why make being a Christian more difficult when you don't have to?

Proverbs 14:7 “Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge” If you happen to know someone that just is full of nonsense in most things they do and you have the ability to get away from them wouldn't it make your life as a Christian less difficult?

Proverbs 17:17 “A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity” A good and true friend is there for you in the good times and in the bad. A good friend wants to build you up not tear you down. Does this sound like your friends? I hope so!

Proverbs 22:24-25 “Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go: Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul” Have you ever been around someone a lot that you knew deep down they were going to get into trouble and maybe even get you in trouble? If so, you have to ask yourself what friendship with them might cost you and if it is worth it? A Christian like any human will get angry and sometimes not act like they should but it can not be allowed to become a habit. Will the angry troublesome friend help you get into Heaven?

Matthew 5:30 “And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell” I believe we can all understand that Jesus was being figurative with his language here and does not literally want anyone to harm themselves. However, what is being said is that if something or someone in your life is making it difficult to live pleasing to God, get rid of that thing or that person from your life. A side note while the lesson in general is about friendship that could make it more difficult to get to Heaven, Christians can also assess other parts of their lives too. Do I have a hobby, habit, or find some form of entertainment that is not pleasing to God? If so consider if that object of fun is worth missing Heaven over? Christians need to get both people and things out of their lives that will make it difficult to get to Heaven.

John 15:18-19 “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you” If a Christian chooses to please God and not mankind sometimes people will not like or accept that, but that is ok. It does not matter if your life makes everyone else happy or not, it matters only if your life pleases God. However, this do not mean a Christian can walk around acting like a turkey either does it? That would actually not be acting very Christian now would it?

Romans 12:2 “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” Christians have to be careful about who their friends are because we don't want to become like the world. The more time one spends around worldly people the more likely that life will rub off on a Christian. Why make being a Christian harder than one has to?

1 Timothy 6:10 “For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows” Please note money is not evil but putting it before God is. Putting anything before God is sinful. If as Christians, we find something or someone in our lives is more important than God, we must

change that. God must be first in the life of a Christian. We all know that is not always easy but as Christians we must be striving to put God first.

James 4:4 “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God” Christians simply can not be both a friend of God and a friend of the world. We must pick, which one will it be? We all must remind ourselves; we certainly live in and can enjoy being in the world. However, God must be the Christian priority not something else.

1 John 1:7 “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin” When a Christian has their priorities straight and not letting the wrong influences into their lives it becomes just that much easier to continue to be a Christian.

1 John 2:15 “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him” We can enjoy people, places, and things in this world but they can not come before God. If we truly love God, we will strive to keep Him first. Yes, we will not succeed every day, but a Christian should be striving to do so.

1 John 3:7-8 “Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil” Are the people in your life worldly or righteous? Righteous people are helpful to a Christian because they will help strength them. Worldly people do not have the priorities a Christian does. Be careful who you spend time with it can make a big difference in your life trying to please God.

Conclusion

Hopefully we can see from the above scriptures that we do need to be watchful of the people in our lives. Are we surrounding ourselves with friends that will be helpful or hurtful to a Christian goal of eternal life in Heaven? Do we need to make a change in who we hang around with? Perhaps we can all reflect on who the biggest influences in our daily lives are.