

How do we choose our close friends?

1 Corinthians 15:33 "Evil company corrupts good habits."

2 Corinthians 6:14 "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers."

Hebrews 10:19-25

A godly friend: Publicly p _____ faith in Christ

Hebrews 10:23 "Profession"

† Homologeō = to speak the same thing (*Matthew 10:32*).

A godly friend: S _____ you, gets to know your inner being

Hebrews 10:24 "Consider"

† To perceive clearly, understand fully, study close.

A godly friend: S _____ you on toward love & good deeds

Hebrews 10:24 "Provoke"

† To stimulate, incite (to love and to good works).

A godly friend: H _____ you accountable to your commitments

Hebrews 10:25 "Exhorting"

† Parakaleō = to call to a person, beseech, exhort, admonish, urge one to pursue some course of action / conduct.

1. Recognize and claim the present work of Jesus Christ as our Great High Priest.
2. In the light of this encouraging truth, we then must obey the Word of God.
3. In connection with 1 John 1:7, a believer who is indeed obeying God (walking in light) will then have fellowship with believers.
4. As a result it will be achievable to "consider one another", knowing them intimately and deeply in such a way that we can "incite" them towards "love and good works".
5. The "assembling of ourselves" will and should result once believers have completed the prior three steps.

A godly friend: Joint participant in m _____ of Church

1 John 1:7 "Fellowship"

† One great theme discussed in 1 John is love for other believers, and the fellowship that is the preceding factor of that love.

A godly friend: Walks in o _____ to the Word of God

1 John 1:7 "Walk in the light"

† Our vertical relationship is nurtured, strengthened, and deepened.
† ! *Corinthians 1:9; 2 Corinthians 6:14; Phil. 2:1; 1 John 1:3*
† Subsequently, our fellowship with those around us is nurtured, strengthened, and deepened.

A godly friend: C _____ their personal sins to you

James 5:16

† To sin is to break fellowship.
† When our fellowship with God is out of line, it is guaranteed that our fellowship with others will be, too.

A godly friend: Takes proactive steps of c _____ in their lives

Ephesians 4:22-24

† "Put off, renew the mind, put on"

Romans 6 commands

† "Know, reckon and yield"

Romans 12:1,2; Galatians 5:16

† "Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill lusts of the flesh"

2 Corinthians 7:8-11

† Change of heart followed by convincing actions

All of these essential truths need to be obeyed so as to ensure:

1. Fellowship with God (vertical)
2. Fellowship with others (horizontal)

Result? Christ's sacrifice on our behalf apprehended / appreciated.