

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 professes faith in Christ

Hebrews 10:23 "Profession"

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

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

Hebrews 10:24 "Consider"

† To perceive clearly, understand fully, study close.

A godly friend: Shows you on toward love & good deeds

Hebrews 10:24 "Provoke"

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

A godly friend: Holds 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.
2. Obey the Word of God.
3. A believer will then have fellowship with believers (1 John 1:7).
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

A godly friend: Joint participant in ministry 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 obedience to the Word of God

1 John 1:7 "Walk in the light"

- † Our vertical relationship is nurtured, strengthened, and deepened.
- † ! *1 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 – horizontal relationships.
- † *Hebrews 10:25*
- † The permanence of our cleansing is permanent.
- † The proportion of our cleansing is in direct proportion to our obedience.

A godly friend: Cleanses their personal sins to you

James 5:16

- † To sin is to break fellowship.
- † *Romans 3:23*
- † *2 Corinthians 7:10-11*
- † *John 8:31-32*
- † 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 conviction in their lives

Ephesians 4:22-24

† "Put on", 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.