

THE LOCAL CHURCH
Fellowship: Faith Buddies

- I. Who you hang with, fellowship with, affects you-1Cor15:33-Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners; CEV-Don't be fool yourselves. Bad friends will destroy you; AC-Evil companionships (communion, associations) corrupt and deprave good manners and morals and character**
- A. God tells us to not hook ourselves to the wrong people-2Co6:14-Be ye not unequally yoked (associate-join in company, as friend, companion; Intimate union; One frequently in company of another) together with unbelievers (without Christian faith, heathen): for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? **15** And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? **16** And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. **17** Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. **18** And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty**
1. Unequally yoked is having a close union-Being friends, companions, frequently spending time with
 2. According to God there are certain people you don't need to be hanging around-Pr24:1-Be not thou envious against evil men, neither desire to be with them; Pr14:7-Go from the presence of a foolish man; Js23:11-12-CEV-Be sure to always love the Lord your God. Don't ever turn your backs on him by marrying people from the nations that are left in the land. Don't even make friends with them...they'll be like a trap for your feet, a whip on your back, and thorns in your eyes
 3. Our personalities don't have to match, but our values do if we're going to be close-(Amber & The Job test)
- B. Why? Because if you hang with the wrong people the wrong stuff will rub off on you-1Co15:33-Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners**
1. Why say don't be deceived?-Some thought I can hang with them and it won't affect me
 2. What's in them comes out of them and gets in you and then comes out of you-(I.E. Amber's apple sticker)-Pr22:24-Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man you shalt not go: Lest you learn his ways, and get a snare to your soul
 3. A little leaven leavens the whole lump-Things can spread if you hang around them-1Cor5:1-It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. 2 And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you. 6 Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? 7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump ... 9 I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company (TP-Avoid contact; Mix up together, associate with, be intimate with, keep company with) with fornicators: 10 Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. 11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolator, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.
 4. This doesn't mean you can never be around a sinner-Jesus was around sinners, friendly and kind to sinners, he was not a friend of sinners-Mt11:19-The son of man came eating and drinking and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners; Jn15:14-You are my friends, if you do whatsoever I command you; Js4:4-Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God
 - a. Be kind to unsaved family, co-workers, be ready to minister to them-Be careful who your friends are/hang with
- II. Hanging with, fellowshiping with the right people will help you-Pr13:20-He that walks with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed**
- A. Don't just not have bad friends, but have good friends-Replace the bad friends with good friends**
- B. There are divine friends-God knits hearts together-1Sam18:1-The soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul; Col2:2-That their hearts might be knit together in love; Pr18:24-There is a friend that sticks closer than a brother; TP-Some friendships don't last for long, but there is one loving friend who is joined to your heart closer than any other**
1. A divine friend protects-Warned David of Saul's plan-1Sm19:2-Jonathan Saul's son delight much in David and Jonathan told David, saying, Saul my father seeks to kill you: now therefore, I pray you, take heed to yourself until the morning, and abide in a secret place, and hide yourself
 2. A divine friend has your back-He spoke good of David to Saul-1Sm19:4-5-Jonathan spake good of David unto Saul his father, and said unto him, let know the king sin against his servant, against David; because he hath not sinned against you, and because his works have been to thee-ward very good: For he did put his life in his hand, and slew the Philistine, and the Lord wrought a great salvation for all Israel: you saw it, and did rejoice: wherefore then will you sin against innocent blood, to slay David without cause
 3. A divine friend will do whatever you need-A divine friend isn't a needy and naggy friend-1Sm20:4-Then said Jonathan unto David, Whatsoever your soul desires I will even do it for thee

4. A divine is invested in your prosperity-**1Sm20:9**-*For if I knew certainly that evil were determined by my father to come upon you, then would not I tell it you? 13 If it please my father to do you evil then I will show it you and send you away that you may go in peace (shalom)*
 5. A divine friend will encourage your faith-**1Sm23:15**-*David abode in the wilderness in strong holds, and remained in a mountain in the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God delivered him not into his and. David saw that Saul was come out to seek his life: and David was in the wilderness of Ziph in a wood. Jonathan Saul's son arose, and went to David into the wood and strengthened his hand in God. And he said unto him, Fear not: for the hand of Saul my father shall not find thee; and you shalt be king over Israel, and I shall be next unto thee; and that also Saul my father knows*
 6. A divine friend is loyal-**2Sam9:1**-*Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?*
- C. God wants to hook you up with the right people so deposits can be made-God works through friends
1. Divine friends bring joy and strength to you-**Pr27:9-KJ**-*Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel; TPT-Sweet friendships refresh the soul and awaken our hearts with joy, for good friends are like the anointing oil that yields the fragrant incense of God's presence*
 2. Divine friends make you sharp-**Pr27:17**-*Iron sharpens iron; so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend (associate, close, companion); CEV-Friends sharpen the minds of each other; CJB-Sharpens the character; ERV-Friends keep each other sharp*
 3. You need good faith buddies-Caleb and Joshua those 40 years in the wilderness- **Pr17:17-VO**-*A true friend loves regardless of the situation, and a real brother exists to share the tough times*