

Choosing Friends

1. “Cause and affect” is a prominent principle in our life. It is present in the physical realm (gravity, etc.) and spiritual realm (friendships, etc.) of our world.
2. What kind of friends should I choose when I grow up? Friendship and associations are common because we are social beings (Gen. 2:18). We do not live in isolation (Jn. 17:15; Rom. 14:7). However, we must choose our friends carefully: neighbors, co-workers, school mates (Prov. 12:26; 13:20; 22:24; 29:5). There is a “cause and affect” in friendships.
3. Just because we are associating with someone doesn’t mean that we are condoning their actions (Mt. 9:10-13; 11:19; Lk. 15:1-2). But, we may be easily affected by the people we associate with: false ideas or doctrines, bad habits, etc.
4. There is value in having a friend because of their comfort, support, and help (Eccl. 4:9-10; Amos 3:3; Lk. 10:1; Rom. 15:1).
5. The wrong kind of friends can lead us to do what is wrong (Judges 16:16; 2 Sam. 13:3-5; 1 K. 11:1-6; 12:13-14)
6. Positively: I need to be the right kind of friend to others (Prov. 18:24; 27:6, 9, 17).
7. Negatively: I need to avoid the wrong kind of friends.
 - Some friends will corrupt me (Eccl. 10:1; 1 Cor. 15:33; Jas. 4:4).
 - I must say “No” to this kind of friend (Ex. 23:2; Psa. 1:1; Prov. 1:10-15; 4:14; 22:24-25; 24:1; 28:7).
 - Ignore any rejection or name-calling (Mt. 5:11; Lk. 6:22).
8. Spiritually: I need to be a “friend of God” (Jas. 2:23) and a “friend of Jesus” (Jn. 15:14) by doing what the Bible says for me to do.