

FRIENDING

Part 3 One Community Away

- Tell me who your friends are and I will tell you who you are.
- Show me your friends and I will show you your end.
- **Change your COMMUNITY, change your FUTURE.**

Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.
Proverbs 13:20

Unhealthy Community

- **The GOSSIP.** “A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid anyone who talks too much. (Prov. 20:19)
- **The HOT-TEMPERED.** “Do not make friends with the hot-tempered, do not associate with those who are easily angered, or you may learn their ways and get yourself ensnared.” (Prov. 22:24-25).
- **The DIVISIVE.** “Fear God, dear child—respect your leaders; don’t be defiant or mutinous. Without warning your life can turn upside down, and who knows how or when it might happen?” (Prov. 24:21-22).
- **The SELF-INDULGENT.** “He who keeps the law is a discerning son, but he who is a companion of gluttons humiliates his father” (Prov. 28:7).
- **The IMMORAL.** “A man who loves wisdom brings joy to his father; but a companion of prostitutes squanders his wealth.” (Prov. 29:3). “Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life . . . Let your eyes look directly ahead and let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you. Watch the path of your feet and all your ways will be established. Do not turn to the right nor to the left; turn your foot from evil.” (Proverbs 4:23, 25-27)
- **The FOOL.** “He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm” (Prov. 13:20). A

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fool is someone who refuses to acknowledge God and spiritual matters, and as a result, will not turn away from evil.

Knowing the powerful impact friends can have on our lives, it's important that we examine our relationships to see if we have any ungodly associations. And as parents, we also have the responsibility of guiding our children in their selection of friends and guarding them from those relationships that could lead them astray.

Spiritually Healthy Community – Acts 2:42-47

Since we tend to become like the people with whom we associate, we must build relationships that are mutually beneficial. True godly friendships are built with the following attitudes and actions:

- Share a deep common interest.
- Meet the needs of the other person.
- Risk rejection and pain.
- Love sacrificially.
- Are open and transparent.
- Serve joyfully.
- Ask forgiveness.
- Accept criticism and praise.
- Are committed to the other's spiritual growth.
- Are governed by principles of Scripture.
- Are loyal.

Sources: Concept—lifechurch.tv. References—Charles Stanley, "Strong Friendships" Part 2

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