



Part 3 - My Friends Can Make a Difference Mark Rouse - May 26, 2019

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

There was a man all alone; he had neither son nor brother. There was no end to his toil, yet his eyes were not content with his wealth... - Ecclesiastes 4:8

AN EPIDEMIC OF LONELINESS

- **PAST** experiences.
- **PERSONALITY.**
- **Busyness.**
- **EXPLOSION** of social media.

A friend is someone you may or may not know well who accepts your friend request on Facebook. This person is born to like and comment on your posts to make you feel good about yourself.
- Proverbs 17:17 (Facebook Version)

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.
- Proverbs 17:17

THREE DIFFERENCE-MAKING, FRIENDSHIP QUESTIONS

1) Am I prioritizing friendships that **BUILD** my faith?

⁹ Do your best to come to me quickly... ¹³ When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments... ²¹ Do your best to get here before the winter.
- 2 Timothy 4:9, 13, 21

¹⁶ May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. ¹⁷ On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me. - 2 Timothy 1:16-17

2) Am I guarding against friendships that **HURT** my faith?

¹⁴ Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. ¹⁵ You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message.
- 2 Timothy 4:14-15

Do not be misled: Bad company corrupts good character.
- 1 Corinthians 15:33

3) Am I initiating friendships that **NEED** my faith?

Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. - 2 Timothy 4:11

And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. - Hebrews 10:25

THE FRIEND WE ALL NEED

¹⁶ At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. ¹⁷ But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength... - 2 Timothy 4:16-17

¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.
- John 15:13-15