

Choosing Relationships - Lesson

Lesson summary: Making and sustaining healthy relationships is one of the keys to maintaining godliness and sobriety.

ECCLESIASTES 4:12 (NIV)

Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

1. Pick your team

- We are in a war against the enemy, and we fight against demonic powers and the world. It is important to have allies we can count on to lift us up.
- Hand illustration – any fist can defeat any finger. We are stronger if we learn to work together to accomplish our goals.
- We are more than a team, we are one body. If one of us hurts, it affects all of us.
- Even in the church we need to choose our friends wisely – it is godly to pick and choose who you will be friends with and who you will have no desire to be close to.

2. Be a good friend

- One important aspect in finding and making good friends is that you are a good friend. We need to be the kind of person we want as a friend.

EPHESIANS 5:3 (NIV)

But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.

Sexual immorality, impurity, and greed are unacceptable attitudes for us. That is not who we are anymore.

EPHESIANS 5:11 (NIV)

Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.

Not only should we have no desire to be liked by them, we should expose them.

Qualities of a good friend

They are honest

They are repentant, not perfect, but willing to take steps to grow

Their heart is set on purity and godliness, or at least going that direction

What are some other good qualities?

Qualities of a bad friend

Hints of sexual immorality

Hints of greed

Hints of impurity

Hints of arrogance and an unwillingness to repent or change

What are some others?