

You Are Who You Run With

Why Some Friends Bring Us Down:

Psalm 1:1, Proverbs 12:15, 29:5, 22:24, 1 Corinthians 15:33, Galatians 6:1-2

- ▶ They give us **bad advice**.
- ▶ They encourage us to make **bad decisions**.
- ▶ They lower our **standards**.

3 Important Friendship Questions:

Psalm 1:2-6, John 15:4-15, Proverbs 27:5-6, 27:17, Psalm 119:105, 2 Timothy 2:15

- ❶ Who do I get my **advice** from?
- ❷ Who do I look to for **approval** of my **choices**?
- ❸ What is my ultimate guide: the **World** or the **Word**?

2 Extremes To Avoid:

Hebrews 10:24-25, James 4:4, Proverbs 12:26

1. I can't be friends with **the World**.
 2. Jesus hung out with the **party crowd**, why not **me**?
- * Be friendly to **everyone**,
but choose wisely who you are **friends with**.

TAKING IT HOME

1. As you look back on the sermon and homework, is there a step you feel you need to take in order to strengthen an existing friendship or develop a new one?

2. Looking back at the two extremes Chris talked about, is there one of them you tend to gravitate towards? If so, can you think of anything you could do to help you avoid that tendency?

PRAYER REQUESTS

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓



We have a variety of new service projects now available. Check them out and sign up at <http://www.northcoastchurch.com/service/>

Help needed at the new North Santa Fe church property!

Volunteers are needed NOW to help get the North Santa Fe property ready for move in! We have some timely projects and a sod laying day that need to be completed. Please go to the community service website for projects and to sign up, www.northcoastchurch.com/service/.

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Why Some Friends Bring Us Down:

Psalm 1:1, Proverbs 12:15, 29:5, 22:24, 1 Corinthians 15:33, Galatians 6:1-2

- ▶ They give us _____.
- ▶ They encourage us to make _____.
- ▶ They lower our _____.

3 Important Friendship Questions:

Psalm 1:2-6, John 15:4-15, Proverbs 27:5-6, 27:17, Psalm 119:105, 2 Timothy 2:15

- ❶ Who do I get my _____ from?
- ❷ Who do I look to for _____ of my _____?
- ❸ What is my ultimate guide: the _____ or the _____?

2 Extremes To Avoid:

Hebrews 10:24-25, James 4:4, Proverbs 12:26

1. I can't be friends with _____.
 2. Jesus hung out with the _____, why not _____?
- * Be friendly to _____,
but choose wisely who you are _____.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of May 23, 2010

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching on *You Are Who You Run With*, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. Friendships are important. Yet it can still be difficult to develop great friendships. What are some of the common challenges people face when it comes to developing friendships?

How do these challenges change as we go through different life stages?

2. We all have different desires and capacities when it comes to making friends, and those tendencies seem to show up even when we are kids. Which of these statements best describes your experience with friends when you were growing up?

1. I had one or two best friends I did everything with.
2. I had a circle of friends I hung out with and we did everything together.
3. I had a lot of acquaintances, but not many people I would consider friends.
4. I had friends from a wide variety of different social circles.
5. I liked being alone, so I had a limited number of friends.
6. Other _____

Did your experience with making friends change as you grew older? If so, how?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. The truth that people need friends to grow is reflected throughout the Bible. A very clear statement of the value of friends is found in Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. After reading the passage, write down as many benefits of friendship that you can find.

Can you think of any other benefits you get from having friends?

Assuming all relationships ebb and flow, how could a list like this create unrealistic expectations of what friendship involves?

2 You may have heard it said, "To have a friend you need to be a friend." The Book of Proverbs has a lot of practical wisdom about how to be a friend. Jot down what each of the following verses says about how to be a good friend.

Proverbs 12:18

Proverbs 17:9

Proverbs 17:17

Proverbs 18:13

Proverbs 27:5-6

Which of these attitudes or actions comes most naturally to you? Which is most challenging for you?

3. A great example in the Bible of a strong friendship is the story of David (of David & Goliath fame) and Jonathan, the son of King Saul. Despite stressful circumstances, they were able to encourage and support each other through tough times. As you read about their relationship in the verses below, what specific actions, attitudes or principles can we learn about developing strong friendships?

1 Samuel 18:1-4

1 Samuel 19:1-7

1 Samuel 20:12-17