

Choosing Best Friends!

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VIRTUAL



Tell me who your friends are—says much about a person. We are usually best friends with those who have *like interests*—and more importantly *like faith* in God. Anyone can *say* they believe in God and are a follower of Christ, but their conduct; speech; attitude; conversations; and treatment of people, means much more than verbal statements. What *church* do they support; and what *teaching* are they hearing—is it the Truth from the Bible—that is the issue in choosing friends.

Our selection of friends is to be based on their desire to follow New Testament teaching, because we will be influenced by *their* attitudes and opinions. 1 Corinthians 15:33-34 “*Do not deceive yourselves: Evil companionships corrupt good morals. Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God.*”

Our choice of friends must be in line with God’s Word—because 2 Timothy 3:16 “*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof [teaching], for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*” We do not decide by someone’s *opinion* but by the *Word* of God.

Non-believing friends will influence our belief in God. We can be swayed by their opinions; their interests; their selection of music and clothing; or what they think about trust on God. Our choice of *friends* reveals our level of *faith* in God. We must choose those who trust God as we do—those who support and attend a church that teaches God’s full Truth.

Our friends should follow the teachings of Christ on financial trust—having no laid up treasure on earth; on divine healing by faith in God; on forgiving others when offended or wronged; obeying God’s Word on employment matters—being content with any wage and submissive to any boss.

We feel comfortable around friends who follow the teaching of Christ as we do, because divine principles of trust on God are vitally important. Amos 3:3 “*Can two walk together, except they be agreed?*” We must choose best friends who really believe and trust God.

We should be cordial and Christ-like toward anyone outside our church group, but we should not *desire* to be close friends or best friends with them until we know them on a deeper level. We must ask—Are they following Jesus’ teaching on divine healing; on finances and on work matters; Do they reject all insurance coverage for protection; Do they own a house; and would they take legal action against someone—such questions need answers concerning friends!

The deciding factor on choosing friends is their agreement with us about our faith in God for everything—not just *some* things, but *everything!* If there is no agreement, we would have little in common with them. Being righteous is only through real faith in Christ. Romans 1:17 “*Therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith Habakkuk 2:4.*”

Many think that God will not *protect* them today; will not *heal* them; will not *provide* their needs; and will not *do* what He promises. Many *say* they trust God, but they do not really trust Him for important things in life.

Choosing close friends is so important, because the people with whom we spend our *time* and share our *thoughts*, will affect *our* attitudes, *our* thoughts, and *our* faith in God. Salvation is by

trusting on the Atonement Blood of Christ, so our best friends must totally agree with that.

Satan has many imitations for faith in God—counterfeits for healing, financial security, avenging wrongs, protection from harm, and for other life issues. The devil has deceived the world to trust in drugs and the medical profession for healing at *high cost*—instead of trusting God by faith for divine healing at *no cost*. Satan robs people of the spiritual benefits that result from trusting God.

Jesus said Luke 12:35-36 “*Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him.*” Jesus came to *bring division* Luke 12:51—so we could know *true* friends from *false* Christians when choosing close companions.

Fellowship was a major issue in the Bible, and it is even more so today. Exodus 23:2 “*Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong [evil].*” If we travel with the wrong *people*, we will soon follow their wrong *behavior*. Exodus 23:32-33 “*Do not make a covenant with them or with their gods.*”

The Bible must be consulted when choosing friends. 2 Corinthians 6:15 “*What harmony can there be between Christ and the Devil? How can a believer be a partner with an unbeliever?*” We do not judge the person’s *character*, but we *do* make a judgment on their *attitudes; speech; or whether they trust God in faith*, because their *life* and *ours* must “*prove their change of heart*” Luke 3:8.

An unbeliever is a person who does *not believe* that God heals, protects, and provides by divine power—therefore, we should not associate with those who do *not* believe and do *not* trust God in real faith—“*For what fellowship can light have with darkness?*” 2 Corinthians 6:14.

There is a list of sins that would disqualify us for Heaven. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10—*idolaters*—anything more important than God; *adulterers*—unfaithful

to a spouse; *fornicators*—perverted lifestyle; *theft*—stealing someone’s belongings; *greed*—wanting more and never being contented; *drunkards*—abusing alcohol; *slanderers*—ruining reputations; and *swindlers*—dishonest dealings. Those who do *not* repent will *not* “*Inherit the kingdom of God.*”

1 Corinthians 6:11 “*That is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*” Forgiveness is available to anyone if they will *repent*; and anyone can be *justified* if they will *trust God* in faith.

There can be no *person* or *anything* between us and God—Matthew 10:37 “*Anyone who loves his father, mother more than me is not worthy of me.*” Abraham did not love Isaac more than God so he *obeyed* God Genesis 22:2. Abraham followed the *Word* of God so he was righteous in the *sight* of God.

We should *not* be best friends with those who do unscriptural things; go to questionable places; and have worldly interests. God says 2 Corinthians 6:17 “*Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*”

Bible examples give spiritual light on choosing friends. Ruth 1 Elimelech and his wife were worried about food supplies, so they moved to Moab—*against* God’s will. Elimelech had the promise—being Jewish—“*In the days of famine my people shall be satisfied*” Psalm 37:19. If he had *believed* God’s promise, he would have *stayed* in Israel and trusted God in faith.

Moving to Moab took him *outside* of God’s will, because the Lord had commanded Israel not to associate with Moabites. They went anyway—but Elimelech and his two sons lost their lives.

When Naomi returned to Bethlehem, she was *blessed* by God in many ways.

The Word is clear Revelation 18:4 “*Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.*” We condone unscriptural actions committed by those with whom we are with—*guilty by association.*

Acts 20:28-31 “*Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard!*”

There are many who *say* they are Christians, but do *not believe* that God will heal their body or supply financial needs. By seeking medical attention, they reject God’s healing promises through the Blood of Christ. In choosing close friends, we need to know if their church teaches divine healing, and are the ministers trusting God for health and healing in their *own* lives.

Many reject God’s financial plan, so in choosing friends, we need to know if they are supporting a church that rents the building for their services—this is in compliance with Jesus’ teaching Matthew 6:19. Most religious organizations *own* the church building and then *insure* the building to protect it. God’s command Matthew 6:19-24 *to sell, give to the poor, place* treasure in heaven, and *follow* Him in faith every day is flatly rejected.

If anyone does not accept God’s full Truth, we are *not* to accept their invitations, and we are *not* to be close friends with them. John 1:10-11, “*If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching [doctrine], do not take him into your house or welcome him. Anyone who welcomes him shares in his wicked work.*”

All company pensions; every type of insurance; government welfare; tax refunds of *more* than we *paid* in tax; or any laid-up money for financial protection, is *wrong to accept*, because it eliminates *trust* on God. We are *not* to lay up treasure on earth Luke 12:34, because “*Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*”

When choosing best friends, we need to have honest answers. It is not whether they *say* Jesus is their Savior, but whether they actually *follow* His teaching on financial trust; divine healing; being subject to the boss; rejecting all insurance coverage; having no earthly treasure; forgiving everyone from the heart, and not hiring a lawyer to defend them in court.

What teaching are they accepting as *God’s* Truth; and what church are they supporting as *giving* God’s Truth—is where we need *honest* answers when making choices of friends.

We choose close friends based on the fact that they agree with our faith and trust on God. We choose close friends based on the fact that they live by the same truth and hear the same teaching from the Bible in church services. We must make scriptural choices on this issue—because anyone Matthew 10:37 “*That loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.*”

Choosing best friends who believe in God and live by the same Truth we do, is a vital issue. If God says to *give up close fellowship* with someone for *His* sake, then we have to *do* it. And if we will obey His Word, He promises Mark 10:30—that we, “*Shall receive a hundredfold now in this time*”—friends, lands, or anything we gave up for His sake—“*With persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.*” Choosing *best friends*, is linked to choosing *Eternal Life!*



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www.fcgchurch.org
PO Box 24283; Phila., PA 19120
info@fcgchurch.org