

THE COMPANY YOU KEEP

July 26, 2021

2 CORINTHIANS 6:14-17 NKJV – (14) Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? (15) And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? (16) And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among *them*. I will be their God, and they shall be My people." (17) Therefore, "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you."

Look at the above passage as a principal and warning about our relationships with people. Is it better to be alone, than in the wrong company. (You must remember, you are never alone, God is with you and you have the best company). Evaluate the people you invest with and it will tell a lot about who you are. If you run with wolves, you will begin to howl yourself. But if you associate with eagles, you will learn to soar to great heights!

A simple but true fact of life is that we become like those with whom we closely associate for the good and the bad. The less we associate with some people, the more our lives will improve. (I'm not talking about ministering to people.) Any time we tolerate sin behavior in others, it increases or stagnates our sin behavior. An important attribute in successful people is their impatience with negative thinking and acting.

As we grow, many associates we know will not change. Some will not want you to move on. They will want you to stay where they are. People who do not help you climb, will want you to crawl. People who trust, obey and follow God, will stretch your vision and those who do not trust, obey and follow God, will choke your dream. Those who will not increase you will eventually decrease you.

Consider this, we should never receive counsel from unproductive people. Never discuss your problems with someone incapable of contributing to the solution, because those who never succeed themselves are always first to tell you how. You are certain to get the worst of the bargain when you exchange ideas with the wrong person. Do not follow people who are not going anywhere. Be careful where you stop to inquire for directions along the road of life. Wise is the person who fortifies their life with the right relationships.

SCRIPTURE READING: PROVERBS 1:8-19

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: You can become an example of the people you spend your most time with. Choose carefully.

"A JOURNEY OF THE HEART"