

Lesson 19: Friends and Fellowship

Define Friend: _____

One of the devil's favorite tricks for getting a Christian's eyes off of Christ is to surround him with people who do not care about serving the Lord.

After God had sent Moses to Egypt and delivered the Jews from their slavery, He brought them to the promised land. God told them that they must drive out all the unbelieving people that lived there.

Why did God command this? _____

God added this warning in Numbers 33:55

What is God saying here? _____

The Jews did not follow God's advice, and they paid the price. The history of Israel is a history of constantly leaving the ways of the Lord in order to practice the evil of the unbelieving peoples that lived in their land. Because the Jews repeatedly were influenced by the evil ways of unbelievers, God had to punish them over and over, and finally destroyed them.

Psalm 1:1

What is God's word of advice to all who want to be faithful to Him? _____

Proverbs 24:1

As God's people, what should we not desire? _____

1 Corinthians 5:11

What kind of person does God want us to avoid? _____

Why should we avoid such people? _____

2 Corinthians 6:14-17

What should be our attitude towards those not walking with the Lord? _____

1 Corinthians 15:33

What does the Bible say to a Christian who thinks he can surround himself with worldly friends and still be strong? _____

All of us need friends. The Word of the Lord teaches us to choose our friends wisely. We should choose friends that help us serve the Lord, and not the kind of friends that put temptations and obstacles before us.

What happens if we surround ourselves with friends who are not growing in God's Word? _____

What might we have to do if there are some friends in our life who are having a bad influence on us? (Discuss examples of changing friends and reasons for so doing.)

Proverbs 13:20

What is a fool according to the Bible? _____

What will happen if we are a companion of fools? _____

We want to honor God with all parts of our lives, including the friends with whom we associate.

Psalms 119:63

What kinds of friends is David looking for here? _____

Proverbs 27:17

Why is it important to have good Christian friends? _____

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

How can Christian friends help us? _____

You have learned from the Word of God that when God works true faith in our hearts, He always brings us to a good church where He can feed us and surround us with good friends who will help us to grow in faith and avoid temptation, serving the Lord with all our hearts. God wants us to grow closer to our church and develop deep friendships with God's people.

Hebrews 10:23-25

What should we do for our friends in the church? _____

1 Corinthians 7:39

What does the Word of God here and in many places say to all Christian singles? _____

Why? _____

HOMEWORK

1. Read the book of 1 John this week (the first of the three little letters of John towards the end of the Bible). This book tells of the importance of surrounding ourselves with Children of light, and avoiding children of the darkness.
2. Work on developing a deeper friendship ;with someone in our church. It may be someone that you already know. It may be someone that you have been wanting to get to know better. It may be someone who seems to be lonely or sad. Try to work on your friendship with someone in the church.
3. If there is a friendship in your life that does not honor God, deal with it this week. Pray about it, dedicate yourself to God as the most important thing in your life (more important than this friendship), and then deal with it as God directs you. Don't put it off.