

Beware Of Evil Companions

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Prov. 1:10-19

When we study of Proverbs, we see that wisdom requires...

Fearing the Lord, so that we heed His Word. Prov. 1:7, *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”*

Respecting our parents, so that we listen to their advice. Prov. 1:8-9, *“My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.”*

What about our friends? Our peers with whom we spend so much time?

Might they not be a source of good counsel, wisdom? Indeed they can.

Prov. 27:9, *“Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so doth the sweetness of a man’s friend by hearty counsel.”*

But the wrong kind of friends must be avoided. This is illustrated in our text for this study.

Prov. 1:10-19, *“My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause: Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit: We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil: Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse: My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path: For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood. Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird. And they lay wait for their own blood; they lurk privily for their own lives. So are the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; which taketh away the life of the owners thereof.”*

Which contains...

Fatherly warning concerning evil companions.

Do not consent to their counsel.

A father’s advice: Prov. 1:10, *“My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.”*

Especially when they seek to entice you to do evil. Prov. 1:11-12, *“If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause: Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit:”*

When they tempt you with promises of easy gain. Prov. 1:13-14, *“We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil: Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse:”*

The example is enticement to murder and robbery.

Do not walk with them. Keep away from such “friends” who are quick to do evil.

Prov. 1:15-16, *“My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path: For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood.”*

Their efforts should ultimately be in vain. Prov. 1:17, *“Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird.”*

Eventually they will pay with their own lives. Prov. 1:18-19, *“And they lay wait for their own blood; they lurk privily for their own lives. So are the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; which taketh away the life of the owners thereof.”*

Such is the way of greed; it destroys those who possess it.

While the example in our text pertains to murder and robbery, the principle holds true to all kinds of sinful conduct. So let’s expand on the lesson to be learned here.

The danger of evil companions.

They persuade through enticement.

Like the serpent who tempted Eve, sinful friends will appeal to:

- The lust of the flesh (“good for food”).
- The lust of the eyes (“pleasant to the eyes”).
- The pride of life (“desirable to make one wise”).

As in Gen. 3:6, *“And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”*

Evil friends will offer easy gain; such as wealth without work; such as pleasure without commitment; such as companionship without cost.

It sounds so good and easy, doesn't it?

They ignore the cost of sin; that sin destroys those who possess it.

So-called "friends" will eventually turn on one another. If they will sin with you, how do you know they won't sin against you? (Like a pack of dogs). They will be friends only as long as it benefits themselves.

That sin eventually exposes those who continue in it.

Num. 32:23, "*But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out.*"

Sin requires lies and deception; eventually one gets caught in their web of lies.

Sin often carries a physical price that cannot be hidden.

- Addiction (drugs).
- Disease.
- Unwanted pregnancy.

Evil companions never talk about the cost of sin, do they?

Finally, let's glean from our text what is...

The solution to evil companions.

Don't listen to them.

Prov. 1:10, "*My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.*"

What they promise they cannot really deliver, at least for long.

The truly blessed man does not walk in their counsel. Psalms 1:1, "*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*"

Be wise enough not to heed their enticing words.

Stay away from them.

Prov. 1:15, "*My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path.*"

Do not let them be your companions. Prov. 13:20, "*He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.*"

Especially if they are unbelievers. 2 Cor. 6:14-18, "*Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness*

with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”

Be even wiser to avoid letting them become your companions.

Conclusion.

This is not to say that we cannot try to save them.

We must be separate from the world, but we cannot isolate ourselves.

1 Cor. 5:9-11, *“I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.”*

Even Jesus was with sinners. Matt. 11:19, *“The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children.”*

He was with them to teach them, but He did not partake of their evil deeds.

But we must be honest with ourselves. Do we influence them more than they do to us? If not, then we should stay away until we are strong enough to be a positive influence.

What we have studied in Prov. 1:10-19, perhaps, is best summarized by the apostle Paul: 1 Cor. 15:33, *“Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.”*

To be wise, we must know who to listen to (God, parents, and good friends), and who not to listen to (anyone who would entice us to do evil).

