



Friends Like These

How Do I Pick Friends?

Proverbs 13:20; Act 18:1-3, 18-26; Romans 16:3-5

Proverbs 13:20

Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise,
but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

Because your friends will determine who you become, use wisdom in picking your friends.

How do you pick your friends?

Find common interests

- “After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. **2** And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, **3** and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade” (Acts 18:1-3).
- What are your interests?
- “Friendship arises out of mere Companionship when two or more of the companions discover that they have in common some insight or interest or even taste which the others do not share and which, till that moment, each believed to

be his own unique treasure (or burden). The typical expression of opening Friendship would be something like, 'What?' 'You too? I thought I was the only one'" (C. S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*, 83).

- What are your interests?

Share experiences

- “**18** After this, Paul stayed many days longer and then took leave of the brothers and set sail for Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila. At Cenchreae he had cut his hair, for he was under a vow. **19** And they came to Ephesus, and he left them there, but he himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. **20** When they asked him to stay for a longer period, he declined. **21** But on taking leave of them he said, 'I will return to you if God wills,' and he set sail from Ephesus” (Acts 18:18-20).
- What are your experiences?
 - How do we share experiences?
 - Talk face-to-face
 - Do things side-by-side
 - Eat around the table
- What are your experiences?

Listen for Christian wisdom

- “**24** Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. **25** He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. **26** He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately” (Acts 18:24-26).
- What is Christian wisdom?
 - What should we be listening for?
 - The Gospel
 - Scripture and Doctrine
 - Wisdom
- Who are you listening to?

Appreciate sacrificial love

- “**3** Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, **4** who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks but all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks as well. **5** Greet also the church in their house” (Romans 16:3-5a).
- What is sacrificial love?
 - Sacrificial love is selfless.
 - “The best advice for cultivating friendship is not to find a better friend but to become one” (Drew Hunter, *Made for Friendship*, 116).
- Who are you sacrificially loving?

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“You did not choose me, but I chose you” (John 15:16).