

Companionship

The Christian life is not a solo mission. God does not want you to live by yourself and only have a relationship between yourself and God. The Bible talks about the church, as many believers, all pursuing and loving the Lord together.

Ecc 4:4-8: *Again I saw something meaningless under the sun: There was a man all alone; he had neither son nor brother. There was no end to his toil, yet his eyes were not content with his wealth. "For whom am I toiling," he asked, "and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?" This too is meaningless – a miserable business!*

This was a reflection by Solomon, the wisest and richest king on Earth. When one is alone, life is meaningless. No amount of wealth can provide contentment without someone to share it with.

Ecc 4:9-12: *Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him--a threefold cord is not quickly broken.*

You need companions in your Christian life. Being with others gives the benefit of combined effort, mutual support, strength, and encouragement in hard times. So... what does the Bible say about friends and their impact on your Christian life?

Positive Outlook	Negative Outlook
<p>2Ti 2:22 So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.</p> <p>Heb 3:12-13 Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.</p>	<p>1Co 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals."</p> <p>Heb 10:24-25 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.</p>

Questions to Consider:

1. Think about the friends in your life. Are they a positive or negative influence in your Christian life?
2. Would *your* friends classify you as a helpful fellow companion in their pursuit of Christ?
3. What can you change in your life to help you in your Christian life? For example: drop negative influences, add positive influences, and/or make yourself a better companion to others?

What are some examples of good companions in the Bible?

Daniel and His Three Friends:

Dan 3:16-18: *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."*

These three friends made a firm stand for the Lord against idol worship. They spoke as one, and they all had a resolute and steadfast commitment to God, even to the point of dying together. By ourselves, we may become timid or shy. However, when we are with other brothers and sisters, we can be a bold testimony for the Lord.

David and Jonathan:

1Sa 20:42: *Then Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, because we have sworn both of us in the name of the LORD, saying, 'The LORD shall be between me and you, and between my offspring and your offspring, forever.'" And he rose and departed, and Jonathan went into the city.*

Jonathan was the prince of Israel, and David was his friend. Jonathan warned David and interceded for him so often that he often put his own life in danger. He did this knowing that it was God's will that David would ascend to the throne in his place. True companionship manifests itself in love, even to the point of putting others' interests before your own.

Conclusion: Clearly, your companions have a great effect on the way you live your Christian life. They can either help or hurt you. Therefore, the Bible stresses that you should pursue the Lord with other believers (those who call on the Lord from a pure heart).

