

# WISDOM FOR ASSOCIATION FOR SINGLES

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There is no gainsaying the fact that there is power in association. Association brings influence. Friends are influence. The people you move with consciously or unconsciously impart your life for good or for evil. The earlier you come to terms with this the better for you. Ignorance will not help you in this matter, so take your time to read and meditate on the truths contained in this article.

There is a saying in the world that, "Birds of the same feather flock together" This Connotes the power of association. By association, I mean the people you keep close Company with. It is all about the people you move with, people you hang out with, people You call your friends.

Association is powerful in the sense that it influences all concerned in the relationship. Friendship is influence. A relationship (Association) can have a positive or negative Influence on one, depending on who is involved and the one that has a more imposing personality. Association brings great opportunities to one's doorsteps.

The Bible teaches that we be careful in deciding who we associate with because of the influential power of such relationship on those concerned.

*"Do not be misled; Bad Company corrupts good character" (1 cor15: 33).*

A good person can be influenced to become had. This explains why children from godly Parents, later in life become wayward and wicked in character despite all the Foundational biblical teachings given to them by their parents.

Because of the power of associations (influence that comes from association), the word of God places some restrictions on God's people on the kind of people they should associate with.

## FIVE GREAT WARNINGS

### **(1) Wrong association brings disgrace**

*"He who keeps the law is a discerning son, but a companion of gluttons disgraces his father." (Prov. 28:7).*

Gluttons are heavy eaters and drinkers. They are lazy and time wasters. Their stomach is their God. They can't fast because they cannot afford to stay without food. They are selfish and self-centered in lifestyle. Gluttony is sin before God. God does not want his people to keep company with such people, not to talk of practicing their lifestyle. If you keep company with them, you will be influenced to live like them.

**(2) Don't keep company with a man given to anger**

*"Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered" (Prov. 22:24,25).*

We all learn by observation. Everything seen and heard goes into the mind of man. Before you know what is happening, what you keep seeing and hearing starts affecting you. Consciously or unconsciously, you find yourself acting the same way. What you saw as wrong, you now start seeing as right. Your sense of judgment changes based on the much you have seen and heard.

What you tolerate you can't fight. And what you can't fight, will stay in your life. Heed God's warning. Keep away from hot-tempered people, so you don't become like them and ruin your life and relationships.

Take time to study on the evil of hot-temper - the damages that it does in people's life, then you will know why God give this warning. Marriages have been destroyed through anger. Relationships have been broken, families have been torn apart, businesses have been wrecked, jobs lost, customers and clients driven away because of hot-temper. Many decisions and steps have been taken that resulted in grave consequences because of bad temper. It is like madness, and God hates it. Run from it. If hot-temper is your problem, get rid from it now. Go to Jesus Christ for help. Let your pastor help you in counseling.

**(3) Don't associate with these kinds of people**

*"But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually an immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat." (1Cor. 5:11)*

**IMMORAL:** An immoral person is someone who has no morals. He is wicked and evil in conduct. He/she is wayward, ruled by lust, and sexually promiscuous.

**GREEDY:** Someone who is filled with greed. Intensely desirous not because he needs it, not because he wants it. Greed is strong desire for more food, wealth, etc, especially for more than is right or reasonable. A greedy person is courteous, acquisitive and insatiable in nature.

**IDOLATER:** An idolater is a worshipper of idols. Idols are not only carved or images that men bow to in worship, but anything that takes place of God in your life. Anything or anyone you so respect and love to the extent that you live contrary to the will and laws of God for the sake of that person or thing is an idol in you life.

**SLANDERER:** Is someone who is in the habit of making false statements that damages a person's reputation. A false witness is a slanderer. Saying things that

are not correct about others is slandering. Running other people down with your mouth is slandering.

DRUNKARD: A drunkard is one who is in the habit of getting drunk with alcohol.

SWINDLER: A swindler is one swindles others. To swindle is to cheat; get (money, goods etc out of somebody) by cheating. Dupers are swindlers.

These six categories of people, the word of God warn us not to associate with, especially those who call themselves, brothers but are practicing such evil. It is the normal thing for the people of this world to live such life, but is abnormal for a child of God. Paul advises God's people to stay away from such. Associating with them will expose God's people to the danger of being influenced to live such rotten and wicked life. Most of the evil habits and character you have in your life, you learnt by observation and association. All the people you had related with – from your parents to brothers, friends, schoolmates, colleagues at work etc; hard in one way or the other influenced you positively or negatively. When you come to terms with this truth, then you will heed God's warnings.

**(4) Do not associate with the disobedient**

*"If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of him. Do not associate with him, in order that he may feel ashamed" (2Thes. 3:14).*

*"You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred towards God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God" (James 4:4)*

Don't pitch tent with the enemies of God. Walk with the obedient and it will be well with you.

**(5) A companion of fools suffers harm**

*"He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm." (Prov. 13:20)*

Associate with the wise (the successful, intelligent, those who have direction) and you will soon be like them. If you associate with loafers, you will become a loafer. If you keep close company with those who are going nowhere and looking forward to nothing, very soon, you too will lose your vision and become like them. If you associate with those who are confused about what they want to become in life, it will not be long, you will become confused like them.

There is power in association. Because of this God always encourages his people not to associate (keep close company) with those who have not surrendered to his Lordship.

*"... I am the LORD your God, who has set you apart from the nations." (Lev. 20:24).*

*"You are to be holy to me because I, the LORD, am holy and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own." (Lev. 20:26)*

*"Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship, can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said; "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people. Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no 'Unclean thing, and I will receive you. I will be a father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." (2Cor. 6:14-18)*

There is power in association. A lot are struggling in their Christian life because they have surrounded themselves with unbelievers with horrible lifestyles. They are being pulled from two sides; as a result, their Christian life is fruitless and full of struggles. Today, they are in the church, tomorrow, they are in the nightclub. Today, they are repenting of fornication, tomorrow, they are back again to the same sin. Open your eyes child of God, and learn like king. David to separate yourself from ungodly people who will not help you live a holy and blameless life before God.

*"I will sing of your love and justice; to you, O LORD, I will sing praise. I will be careful to lead a blameless life-when will you come to me? I will walk in my house with blameless heart. I will set before my eyes no vile thing. The deeds of faithless men I hate; they shall not cling to me. Men of perverse heart shall be far from me; I will have nothing to do with evil. Whoever slanders his neighbor in secret, him will I put to silence; whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart, him will I not endure. My eyes will be on the faithful in the land that they may dwell with me; he whose walk is blameless will minister to me. No one who practices deceit will dwell in my house; no one who speaks falsely will stand in my presence. Every morning I will put to silence all the wicked in the land; I will cut off every evil doer from the city of the LORD." (Psalm 101).*

### **MEDITATE ON THESE**

- 1. Some people are bad news. Avoid them.**
- 2. Associate with the right people – Heavenly minded people.**
- 3. Take time to know your friend to determine the extent of your relationship.**

4. Always pray that God will unmask every person that seeks relationship with you.
5. To be intimate with someone you do not know is like dinning with the devil, and anything can happen. Prayerfully seek to understand the person before you get intimate.
6. Your friends can enhance your public image or mar it. Seek company with those who will enhance it.
7. You will always move toward anyone who increases you and away from anyone who decreases you. You are created with a desire to increase. Decrease is unnatural.
8. Never allow what people say about you to change your opinion of yourself. What you think of yourself is more important than what people think about you. People's opinion should not determine your opinion of yourself.
9. Aloneness creates vulnerability.
10. God will never give you someone that will replace his presence in your life.
11. Mentorship is the master key to extraordinary success.
12. Treat people right, you may meet them somewhere were you will need them to give you a helping hand.
13. A kind gesture can open a million dollar door for you.
14. Meeting people is exciting, maintaining a relationship is hard work and rewarding.
15. Stop pre-judging people. Your first impression is always limited. Time will reveal the personality with whom you have been dealing with. Give every relationship time.
16. The proof of true love is the investment of time.
17. Nobody is ever as they first appear.
18. Only fools make permanent decisions about a person without adequate knowledge which comes with an investment of time.

19. **There are two kinds of people: Dream killers and Dream fertilizers, Positive and negative people, those who add and those who subtract from you, the right company is the people who will help you get to your dream.**
20. **Those that transfer knowledge are also capable of transferring error.**
21. **When God wants to bless you, he puts a person in your life ... When Satan wants to destroy you, he puts a person in your life.**
22. **Every relationship in your life is a current moving you toward your dreams or away from them.**
23. **Your assignment determines your close associates.**
24. **Those who will not respect your time will not respect your wisdom either. Avoid time wasters.**
25. **Define every relationship to manage your life and your time well.**
26. **Don't submit leadership of your life to friends.**
27. **Your friends are counselors, but you are the decision maker. Your decisions determine your experience.**
28. **Those you hear always have influence over you.**
29. **What you see friends do repeatedly, you are likely to copy consciously or unconsciously.**
30. **Evaluate your relationships from time to time in order to eliminate the unnecessary, and redefine the necessary.**
31. **Your friends are your future.**

Be careful the company you keep. Be selective in your choice of friends.