

## WorshipLife Session 5: **Constructive Companionships** Proverbs 13:20

In 1984, the rap group Whodini recorded a song entitled, “Friends.” One lyrics of the song states, “Homeboys through the Summer, Winter, Spring and Fall; And there’s some we wish we never knew at all; And this list goes on, again and again; But these are the people that we call friends.” Each person in this world is designed by God to desire to have “friends.” We desire to have acquaintances that provide personal affirmation, encouragement and/or life wisdom. However, as Whodini reminds us, we do not always make the wisest choices when selecting our “friends.” If we are to have lives that are committed to worshipping the Lord, we must be very careful to ensure that we are surrounding ourselves with people that will escort our lives in the right direction of faith, discipline, holiness and integrity. This study is to encourage you to be selective about who you determine to be your “friends.”

### **The Word Made Plain...(read Proverbs 13:20)**

In our scriptural text, we read a statement of wisdom from one of the wisest men of all time, King Solomon. This book, Proverbs, is one of the books of wisdom literature in the Bible (along with Job, Psalms, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon). In this book, we find practical life principles that provide insight into how we are to effectively encounter God, ourselves and others in order to have the most effective lives possible. In this twentieth verse of the thirteenth chapter, the writer reminds us of the influence of those that we allow to be in our lives. It is made very clear in this verse that our lives will ultimately reflect the lives of those people that are closest to us. In essence, those that we choose to have around us will either be constructive or corrosive to our lives. This teaches us three very important principles:

- 1. Our companionships inevitably influence us (read Proverbs 19:27).** In the book, *Social*, by Matthew Lieberman, he states “Our brains are built to ensure that we will come to hold the beliefs and values of those around us.” We are wired to adopt the patterns of thinking and behaving of those around us. Therefore, every person that you choose as a friend is a forecast of who you will eventually become (1 Corinthians 15:33). Think about the people that are around you. Who do you need to remove because they work against your focus and vision for a godly life?
- 2. Our fellowship with others impacts our fellowship with Christ (read 1 Corinthians 6:14-18).** As we give our lives to Jesus Christ, we must reconsider how the fellowship with others will encourage or infect our walk with Christ. We can’t be joined with everyone. If we are going to become followers of Christ that are honored by the Lord, we must choose to “yoke” ourselves with people that have the same or a greater commitment to follow Christ as we desire to see in our lives.
- 3. There are some people that will not lead us to life (read Prov. 9:6).** There are some people that brings counsel that is not only ungodly, but also opposing to your peace and health. If you desire is life-giving worship, there are some avenues that will not lead to a blessed state of being (Psalm 1:1). Consider the advice that you receive from those around you. If it doesn’t lead to compliance with God’s word, loving relationships, and a morally healthy body, mind and spirit, you may need to reconsider being around the “fountain of foolishness” from which you are getting your information (Revelation 18:4).

Take some time to consider whether or not your current companionships are corrosive or constructive to your healthy walk in Christ. If you are not growing in the faith and exercising a greater reflection of Jesus on a daily basis, you may want to rethink your “friends” and select those that will truly be Constructive Companionships in your life.

**Reflection on the Word (discussion)...**

1. What have been your criteria when it comes to choosing “friends?” What should be your criteria for selecting friends?
2. How have you seen your life change when you chose ungodly people to have as friends? How did your life change when you chose godly friends?
3. Based on the scripture Proverbs 13:20, what conclusion can you make about your life based upon the people that you choose to have as friends?

**Strategic Plan for Upgrading Your Worship Life**

Based on how you desire to your professional, spiritual, family and financial life to look, list the characteristics that you should desire to have in the people that you select as friends? Who needs to stay and who needs to be dismissed from your current group of “friends?”

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**Benefit Package for selecting the Constructive Companionships**

- There will be minimal arguing (Proverbs 22:10; 26:20)
- You will receive sound wisdom and a greater worship life (Psalm 37:30)
- You will receive instruction that leads to a long, good life (Psalm 34:11-17)

**Closing prayer**

Heavenly Father, you have wired me to be social and I desire to live in a way that pleases you. Remove any satanic impulses that would cause me connect with those that will guide me in an ungodly direction. Please grant me the grace to select the people for my life that will lead me to honor and worship you at a more committed level. In Jesus’ name I ask this. AMEN