

WHY CAN'T WE BE FRIENDS?

Guardrails, Part 2

Proverbs 13:20

Pastor Ken Ritz * Sept 18, 2011 * New Life Vineyard Church

Review of week one:

- Guardrail: ***A personal standard of behavior, that becomes a matter of conscience.***
- Your greatest regret would probably have been avoided if you had had guardrails in your life.
- We resist asking the question: "How close can I get to sin without actually sinning?"
- Instead we ask: "In order to avoid disaster, damage to my life, and lasting regrets, where should I place a guardrail in my life that will trigger my conscience before I get too close to danger.
- We may need guardrails that protect us in areas of spending, eating or drinking, habits or addictions, working hours, internet, television, gambling, or any other area of life that might cause us to lose self-control.

Your friends ultimately influence the _____
& quality of your life.

Acceptance leads to _____

Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.

Proverbs 13:20

Wisdom is contagious.

- A wise person is a person who understands that all of life is connected...
 - What I do today, will influence who I am tomorrow, so the wise person makes decisions based on not just today but on tomorrow and the future.
- A fool is a person who knows the difference between right and wrong, but doesn't care.
 - They live as if life is not connected... today is not connected to tomorrow or next year.
 - The companion of fools will eventually be harmed by the outcome of the fool's behavior.

5 Guardrails For Healthy Friendships

1. Your conscience should "light up" when you realize that your core group of friends isn't moving in the direction you want your _____ to be moving.
2. Your conscience should light up when you catch yourself _____ to be somebody other than who you know you are.
3. Your conscience should light up when you feel pressure to _____.
4. Your conscience should light up when you hear yourself saying, "I'll go but I won't _____."
5. Your conscience should light up when you hope the people you care about most, don't find out _____ you've been or _____ you've been with.

Common Objections to Guardrails With Friends

- It doesn't sound loving and compassionate... i.e. "Aren't we supposed to have friends that are different from us?"
 - Yes, but with guardrails for protection.
 - The best thing I can do for a friend I love is to stay on this side of the guardrail, so that when they crash I'm healthy enough to help them.
 - Drawing back from a relationship may be the most compassionate thing I ever do for that person. Drawing back from a group of friends may be the best act of friendship I ever express.

**All scriptures from TNIV unless otherwise noted*