

A Pastor's Heart

Encouragement from Pastor McGill

Friendships and Influence

Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go; lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul. Proverbs 22:24-25

What kind of people do you spend the majority of your time with? Do they exhibit the fruit of the spirit outlined in Galatians 5:22? As believers we must be careful of our friendships and fellowships. It is not wise to follow people who are angry, bitter, wounded and vindictive. The scripture informs us that what's in them eventually will be transferred into us. Fellowships influence us and impact our lives negatively or positively. We have all known good, well behaved children who were brought up in a good home and were taught right from wrong. They began to run with the wrong crowd and eventually began to look, speak and behave like the people they were in fellowship with. In the end their lives were devastated, destroyed or even ended prematurely. This is not God's best for us and He has empowered us to change our environment. If you are running with the wrong crowd, it is not too late to change. You can choose today to go in a new direction. As parents my wife and I monitor the friends our children have. We have noticed that if they have school friends that are rebellious to parents and whiny, they will tend to come home with the same behavior. Of course the behavior is quickly modified with the rod of correction. Nonetheless the power of influence is strong and can not be ignored. This does not change when we become adults. Who are your friends? Who do you counsel with? Who are you following? Do they have your values? Are they going in the direction that you are or one that you can follow? Do you see the fruit of the Spirit in their lives? These are questions that we must be able to answer if we are going to fulfill God's purpose and plan for our lives. Like it or not, the kind of people we fellowship with, speaks volumes about who we are. If we are constantly in the presence of gossipers, cheaters, liars, and adulterers and are comfortable there, what does that say about us? Jesus will send us around people with issues to minister to them and to draw them into the light. Unfortunately many of us are not around them to minister; we are around them because we have learned their ways and are comfortable being there. Jesus said that we are the light of the world. We are to bring light everywhere we go and change every environment we enter. If Jesus walked into a hospital today and walked down halls that were contaminated with diseases, He would not have to put on biohazardous apparel. He would not be concerned about the disease attaching itself to Him. He would attack the disease and change the environment. In essence what's in the hospital would not change Jesus. He would change what's in the hospital. This is what we are to do in our environment. If we live in the projects, the projects do not have to live in us. Greater is He that is in you than He that is in the world. John 4:4. Let us invest our time with people that have our solution and not waste our time with those who have our problem. Make it a great day.

Blessings and Peace

Pastor McGill