

OUR ASSOCIATIONS

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Who we associate with is important to God and should be to us. Our associates will have a significant impact on our lives. This is why our parents taught us to choose our friends carefully. Sometimes we cannot always control our associates, especially in a work environment where we might be placed in close connection with someone in an office or workstation. Even then, we can control the degree of association we can have with that person, depending on the circumstances.

We should seek to have associations that will edify and build us up. The apostle Paul wrote, “Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble” (Romans 12:16). We will be influenced for good by associating with good people. “As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend” (Proverbs 27:17). We are privileged if we have good friends, and their association is a blessing to our lives.



We should also seek to have associations with those we can influence with truth and godliness. Jesus associated with tax collectors and sinners in a careful way that opened doors for his teaching and influence (Luke 15:1; Matthew 9:10). We should associate with those around us to the extent that we can be the light and salt of truth that God wants us to be (Matthew 5:13-15; Colossians 4:5-6), avoiding any sinful influence they may have.

Let us always beware of associating with those who are ungodly and of dangerous influence. “Evil company corrupts good habits” (1 Corinthians 15:33). There are some people that we should shun to protect our souls. Who do you associate with?