

Evil Company Corrupts Good Habits

In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, One God. Amen.

- **1 Corinthians 15:33** - Some Christians try to keep company with people who are sexually immoral or drunken or greedy or ambitious and the pressure from these friendships soon draws them away from their relationship with Christ and back into the world. Recognize bad company - and avoid it.
- **James 4: 4-5** - There are three main enemies of God - and of Christians. Those enemies are "**the world, the flesh and the devil**" By the world the Bible means "Vanity Fair" the place where people clamber to get up the ladder, gain honors and be thought of as special without any reference to God or to eternity.
- **John 2:15-17** - Living for material gain, worldly status or sensual pleasure is what we call worldliness. It is incompatible with the Spirit of God. You cannot think and act "like everyone else" and be God's friend ([Romans 12:1, 2](#)) you cannot live for this world and for heaven at the same time. Possessions are not the stuff of the Kingdom of God.
- **2 Corinthians 6:14-18** - This passage is often quoted to say that Christians should not marry non-Christians. That is certainly true. We should only marry "[in the Lord](#)". However it is of broader application than that. This passage says that we are not to "[yoke ourselves with](#)" that is get into partnerships or close friendships with unbelievers where it is necessary that we "pull in the same direction".
- This may include boyfriend-girlfriend relationships, close friendships, some business arrangements and anything where we could be compromised by the friendship. The spiritual nature of unbelievers is that they are controlled people. They are controlled by "Belial", the Devil, and he can "push their buttons" from time to time so that they do what he wants "despite themselves". This makes the partnership very unwise for Christians. Satan wants to "steal, kill and destroy" the people of God (John 10:10) and you have foolishly placed yourself right alongside someone who the Devil can control to do you maximum harm.

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- That person may not harm you now but their weakness and vulnerabilities mean that they can "fall into sin" and take you with them. They do not have the strength to resist a strong temptation from the Evil One. This is a hard lesson to learn because many unbelievers are nice, attractive people.
- You are not judging the person by denying the relationship. You are obeying God and He promises you an even better relationship if you follow Him. Refer to **2 Corinthians 6:16-18**.
- The application of this requires courage and wisdom. Courage to make the break from damaging relationships and wisdom in how and when to do it and with what words. Putting distance between yourself and the person does not mean an entire rejection of their personality. You are not to hate anyone. You are to love them with a cautious and wise love that refuses to get involved beyond the boundaries set by God.

Glory is to God, forever. Amen.