

Good News for Hard Heads pt 8: Frienemies

-Story the Changing Tide of Friendships:

-as a kid, my family LIVED IN CHURCH

- Sunday morning both services.
- Sunday Evenings
- tuesday evening home visitation.
- wednesday royal rangers
- Thursday divorce care/ recovery groups
- occasional friday night events

-For a time I also went to the Christian School that belonged to my church
-was surrounded by church people...

-Illustration: whirlpool.....

- everything pushed toward faith...
- even with no effort.....

-things slowly changed:- changed schools, closest friend moved away, challenges in the church caused many families to change churches, my family's involvement changed,, no longer there 5 times a week

-All of these changes together meant that slowly my circle of friends changed
-for a while the **current** in my life was basically **neutral**

-but as me and my friends got older the currents became increasing negative

- by middle school my friends are all smoking and cussing
- increasingly things were not fun if they were not trouble.....

-by the time I was 14 or 15 to actively live out my christian faith was completely **against the current,,,,, the whirlpool now pushed the opposite direction**

-i still had a private belief in God, but was just going with the flow around me

-violence, partying, hookup culture, a few really low moments,,, many scary moments,,, regrets....

-More than just the things that happened, this was more of an issue of a gradual directional change.....

-that kind of living lasted until I was almost 18 and I happened to make a few new friends

-turns out there were Cool and Christians.... Didn't know that still existed

-I started hanging out with these guys more and more

-I "just happened to make a decision to RETURN to a SERIOUS FAITH" during this time period.....

- at the time I didn't notice the correlation between WHAT my FRIENDSHIPS were like, and MY LEVEL of Spiritual Devotion
- Looking back now, I can see the clear connection

- There were times when my friendships benefited my life greatly.
- Then there were times when some of my friendships were detrimental to my life, my direction, and my spiritual health.

-Question: Is it possible that our greatest detriment could be Frienemies?

-What is a Frienemy?

-being a frienemy has nothing to do with Ill-Intent

-a Frienemy is a person with whom you share the feelings and interactions of a friendship, BUT they have a NEGATIVE NET IMPACT on your life.

-you might care about each other and enjoy each other

-but it comes at a price

-negative impact and influence

-2 Corinthians 6:14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?

God warns us about being Yoked with people who are moving in a different direction.

-What is a yoke? (*show picture of yoke*)

-a device that binds animals together harnessing their combined strength

-forces them to move in the same direction, at the same time and, the same pace

-The advantages and disadvantages of the two in a yoke are shared...

-if its time to work but one insists on lying down,,, it impacts both

-if one insists on walking into a highway it impacts both

-The bible warns us that relationships have a "yoking impact".

-Anything that imposes another person's experiences, direction, world views, or pace on you is a Yoking Relationship

-a relationship where someone else's laziness impacts you

-or their poor choices impact you

-or their desired direction PULLS on you YOU

-the degree to which those things take place is the degree to which a relationship is a yoked relationship

-Examples of Yoked Relationships?

-Some are obvious:

-Marriage and Dating Relationships: no human relationship will define your life as much as who you end up with .

-scripture warns us about entering that type of relationship with someone who does not share our spiritual direction or SUBMISSION to JESUS...

-how can you be obedient to the Lord if your actions and life are linked to someone who is not obedient to the Lord....

-DATING: dating is a proving ground for marriage,,,, you will not marry everyone you date,,,, but you WILL NOT MARRY SOMEONE YOU DIDNT DATE

-Dating is the ***pool of candidates*** ,, dont let dont let dummies in the pool,,, they will pee in it!!!

-2 things could happen: they could somehow get the job

-or bad candidates, over time, lower the standard for getting into the pool, which lowers the quality of the one you end up with.

-if you follow Jesus, dating someone who doesn't follow, opens you up to the possibility of great struggle and heartache later

-Business Partnership : -two different moralities at work, two different world views,,, dont chain yourself to that kind of struggle

-what if even though you have different faiths there is not a different world view,,, that is a different problem,,,, there should be.....

-In some relationships the Yoke is less obvious:

-Roommate: -their choices impact you greatly! Financially ,, the people you are regularly exposed to,,,,, how they choose to live day by day,,,,

-Friendships: *"show me your friends and I will show you your future"*

-We don't see it right away but over time, Friendships have PROFOUND IMPACT ON THE DIRECTION OF OUR LIFE

-i have seen the evidence of this in my own life.....

-Illustration: A heart disease foundation did a 3 decade long study on the impact of friends and heart health

-if a friend of yours becomes Obese you have a 45% increased chance of significant weight gain in the next two year!!!

-Think about the Implications that Study points to:

-nobody consciously chooses obesity,,, but your Friend says,,, Lets get wings,,,, lets go out tonight,,,, lets get one more round....

-that is how the 45% increase chance happens.... INFLUENCE

-small choices account for the Bulk of all Influence in our life.

-small choices all FIT TOGETHER and become the Direction of your life

-it is true with food and health

-it's true with your overall direction in life

-The friends we surround ourselves with have a profound effect on our lives.

-The instruction of Scripture is that we should be Deliberate about who we allow into the different Yokes in our life.

balance this against last weeks message

(Ministers of Reconciliation vs. Deliberate Friendships)

-this idea needs to be Understood In Tension with what we talked about last week

-God is making his Appeal Through Us to a lost world

-Ministers of Reconciliation

-We must love people and reach out to connect with people who dont know Jesus,,,

-But we need to be deliberate about the role we allow those people to have in our lives.

-We must recognize and plan for the impact of other people on our lives.

-Proverbs 13:20 Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.

-Foolish friends will be a *Vacuum*, sucking trouble into your life.

-you dont even have to be foolish,,,, just being the Friend of fools....

-Foolish friends suck all kinds of harm into our lives:

-addiction. -drama. -poor perspectives

-low standards and expectations....

-(Reverse) If we are deliberate about Yoking ourselves to wise people, their pace, perspective, and direction can Improve our Life.

-their wisdom can benefit you (keep you from error & expose error...)

-their optimism & determination can be contagious

-their drive and passion for life will impact what you expect from life

-You WANT wise friends, roommates, business partners, and b/g-friends and ultimately spouses.

-be deliberate about who you allow into these roles,, these roles are yokes

-they connect your life and it's outcomes to others

-walk with the wise and you will be wise

We are all temples, devoted to the worship of something.

-2 Corinthians 6:16 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God.

-Your life and body are a temple of God. *God wants to inhabit your actual life.....*

-when we live submitted to God, all that we say and do brings Glory to God

-humility. -our obedience to God. -our love for others

-our sacrifice for others and preferring each other over ourselves

-The net effect of all that makes your life into a GRAND TEMPLE that people can see from all around.....

-not only does it expose the world to God, but it means God is actually inhabiting your life,, he is present there.....

-This scripture is telling us that every Human being is a temple to something.

-If we are not submitted to Jesus we will be mastered by the worship of something:

- ourselves. -power. -money. -sensuality.
- consumption -comfort. -pleasure.

-What a person's temple is devoted to, determines the direction they pull in life.

-If you are a temple of the living God your life will be a continual march in the direction of:

- sacrifice for the cause of kingdom advancement
- concern for sharing Jesus with those who don't know him
- denial of our sinful flesh in pursuit of greater obedience to God

-If you are a temple devoted to Yourself there will be a continual march toward:

- your comfort at the expense of others
- sacrifice the idea of helping others choosing to help yourself
- pursuit of what I want when I want it,,,, even if that means redefining what I see as right or wrong to fit what I want....

-Illustration: Chain Yoke and building buckets

-Kingdom of God Pursuits. vs. Kingdom of Me

- single people,,,, why would you choose this for marriage,, why for dating...
-either constant conflict or compromise.....*
- Don't willingly walk into work and business arrangements that subject you to this....*
- Be deliberate in friendship::: (fight for buckets,, then work together...)*

-close:

- God designed you to be communal by nature.
- You are like a ship with a great sail, relationships are winds in that sail.

-We get to choose our winds! Be deliberate.

-walk with the wise and be wise.....