

## "Form Healthy Relationships"

Proverbs 1:1-7 MSG  
Tony Toth, Jan 26, 2025

**Proverbs 1:1-4 MSG** "Wise sayings...written down so we'll know how to live well and right, to understand what life means and where it's going; A manual for living, for learning what's right and just and fair; To teach the inexperienced the ropes and give our young people a grasp on reality."

### I. THE QUALITY OF OUR CONNECTIONS

**A. CASUAL** Friends Often Result From Circumstances

**B. CLOSE** Friends Should Result From Our Choices

**C. CORE** Friends Have The Greatest Influence

**Proverbs 12:26 NIV** "A righteous man is cautious in friendship, but the way of the wicked leads them astray."

### II. LOVING OTHERS WHILE AVOIDING THEM

**1 Corinthians 15:33** "Bad company corrupts good character."

**A. Avoid The Person Who GOSSIPS**

**Proverbs 20:19** "A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid a man who talks too much."

**Proverbs 16:28** "A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends."

**B. Avoid The Person Who Is Always ANGRY**

**Proverbs 22:24-25** "Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered, or you may learn his ways and get yourself ensnared."

### C. Avoid The Person Not Bothered by STEALING

**Proverbs 10:2** "Ill-gotten treasures are of no value, but righteousness delivers from death."

**Leviticus 19:11** "You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another."

### III. BECOME THE FRIEND YOU WANT

**A. A Friend Should Be TRUSTWORTHY**

**Proverbs 11:13** "A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret."

**Proverbs 27:6** "Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses."

**B. A Friend Should Help You GROW**

**Proverbs 13:20** "He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm."

**Proverbs 27:17** "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."

**C. A Friend Should Be ENCOURAGING**

**Proverbs 16:24** "Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones."

#### THE NEXT FAITHFUL STEP

- 1. Who is your closest friend:** Discuss with family and friends this week why it's important to become the type of friend that you want to have.
- 2. The Three Circles.** Take time the week to work out the three circles of your "connections". If you have children at home, use this as a family exercise to work through it together and share who are the "close" and the "core" friends in our lives.