

Dangerous Partnerships

God clearly warns us about our relationship with the world –

Everything created in the world based on the world is dangerous - 1 John 2:15-17 - 15 **Do not love the world or anything in the world.** If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For **EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD** — the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does — **comes not from the Father but from the world.** 17 The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

Our action of partnering with the world automatically separates us from God - James 4:4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

Bad relationships WILL corrupt if you don't listen - 1 Cor 15:33 **DO NOT BE MISLED:** "Bad company corrupts good character."

Result due to dangerous partnerships

- Bad ideologies in the church
- Disputes due to not being in agreement
- Partnership with the country
- Dysfunctional and broken families
- Dysfunctional businesses

Some reason we use for bad partnering:

- Desire
- Sigh
- Worldly logic instead of Godly obedience
- God not being the overall purpose of our lives
- It seems to benefit our flesh despite God's will

How to avoid dangerous partnerships

Be cautious and know the Major characteristics that must exist with those we partner with –

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

Ps 119:63 I am a friend to all who FEAR YOU, to all who **FOLLOW YOUR PRECEPTS.**

A true friend only gives Godly love- Prov 27:6 Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

The characteristics of Godly Love - 1 Cor 13:4-7 - 4 **LOVE IS patient**, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It **always protects, ALWAYS TRUSTS, always hopes, always perseveres.**

Trust is Not in self - Prov 28:26 **He who trusts in himself is a fool**, but he who walks in wisdom is kept safe.

Trust is Not in Man

Isa 2:22 Stop trusting in man, who has but a breath in his nostrils. Of what account is he?

Jer 17:5 "**Cursed is the one who trusts in man**, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the Lord.

All trust will only be in God - Prov 3:5 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;

*A true friend relationship will not be based on them, or based on me, only on God.

*A true friend isn't self-centered or a people pleaser

They will be there when you're in need but won't enable –

Gal 6:2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Gal 6:5 for each one should carry his own load.

Know the major characteristics of Bad partners - Matt 7:15-20 - 15 "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. 16 **BY THEIR FRUIT YOU WILL RECOGNIZE THEM.** Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus, **BY THEIR FRUIT YOU WILL RECOGNIZE THEM.**

Measure and adjust ALL partnerships in your life - 2 Cor 6:14-16 - 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? 15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? 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. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."

The relationships we are to have with Bad partners is a ONE-WAY relationship in order to minister - 1 Cor 9:19 Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to **EVERYONE**, to win as many as possible.

Know when you are the bad partner to yourself - Luke 11:34-36 - 34 Your eye is the lamp of your body. **WHEN your eyes are good**, your whole body also is full of light. But **WHEN they are bad**, your body also is full of darkness. 35 **SEE TO IT**, then, that **THE LIGHT WITHIN YOU IS NOT DARKNESS.** 36 Therefore, if your whole body is full of light, and no part of it dark, it will be completely lighted, as when the light of a lamp shines on you."

Some specific bad partners

We are not to partner with hot-tempered people - Prov 22:24-25 - 24 **DO NOT** make friends with a hot-tempered man, **DO NOT** associate with one easily angered, 25 or you may learn his ways and get yourself ensnared.

Do not partner with those that are idle and are not PRACTICING Christians - 2 Thess 3:6 In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers, to **KEEP AWAY FROM EVERY BROTHER WHO IS IDLE** and **DOES NOT LIVE ACCORDING TO THE TEACHING YOU RECEIVED FROM US**.

Do not partner with those who do things NOT in line with the Bible - Rom 16:17-18 - 17 I urge you, brothers, to **watch out for** those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. **KEEP AWAY FROM THEM**. 18 For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.

Do NOT partner with the disobedient - Eph 5:5-7 - 5 **FOR OF THIS YOU CAN BE SURE: No immoral, impure or greedy person** — such a man is an idolater — **has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God**. 6 **Let no one deceive you with empty words**, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. 7 **Therefore DO NOT BE PARTNERS WITH THEM**

We avoid in order to shame and hopefully save the disobedient - 2 Thess 3:14-15 - 14 If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of him. **DO NOT ASSOCIATE WITH HIM**, in order that he may feel ashamed. 15 Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

Do not partner with those that indulge in GODLESS conversations - 2 Tim 2:16-18 - 16 Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it WILL BECOME more and more ungodly. 17 Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18 who have wandered away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some.

We are to avoid all heretics - Titus 3:10-11 - 10 Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH HIM. 11 You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

Divisive - hairetikos (hahee-ret-ee-kos'); a conflicting: heretic [the Greek word itself].

Many people of today live with very self-centered characteristics and those that display them must be avoided - 2 Tim 3:1-5 - But **MARK THIS**: There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 **PEOPLE WILL BE** lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. **HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THEM**.