

FRIENDS

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We should choose the friend that is satisfied with our deen and avoid the friend that is displeased with it. We should only befriend those individuals whose deen and manners we are pleased with. There is no good in the companion who wishes for us what he wishes for himself, if what he likes for his own soul is leading him towards destruction and the Hellfire.

For those who do not follow Islaam, their actions are based upon corruption and built upon misguidance. Their deeds are worthless to them. Their actions, even if we regard them as righteous and noble are of no value to them, so how can they be of benefit to us? Mixing with such people results in a change in one's behaviour, morals and conduct. If we accept such friends, agreeing with them and being pleased with them, then we inherit their habits, behaviour and even religion. Such a Muslim would find himself in a situation wherein he is willing to hide his Islaam in front of those who despise it (those that he considers as friends) and to separate from the believers. When this situation occurs, a point is reached when there is a very slight difference between the Muslim and his wrong-doing companion

Instead of making friends with the misguided ones we should befriend the righteous and treat the rest in a gracious and just manner

The Prophet (saw) said:

‘The example of a good companion and a bad companion is like that of the seller of musk, and the one who blows the blacksmith's bellows. So as for the seller of musk then either he will grant you some, or you buy some from him, or at least you enjoy a pleasant smell from him. As for the one who blows the blacksmith's bellows then either he will burn your clothes or you will get an offensive smell from him.’

[Bukhaaree & Muslim]

Keeping good company with the pious results in attainment of beneficial knowledge, noble manners and righteous actions, whereas keeping company with the wicked prevents this.

Many times a Muslim is encouraged by his friends to do evil and to forget his duties. The result is often that he feels ashamed to leave his friends to perform Salaah for example. In this way, the friends cause the Muslim to deviate from the Right Path.

Allaah the Exalted says in the Qur'aan:

‘And (remember) the Day when the wrong-doer will bite at his hands and say: Oh! Would that I had taken a path with the Messenger. Ah! Woe to me! If only I had not taken so-

and-so as a friend! He has led me astray from this Reminder (the Qur'aan) after it had come to me. And Shaytaan is ever a deserter to man in the hour of need.' [al Furqaan 25:27-29]

Allaah (swt) also says: ***'Friends on that Day will be enemies one to another, except al-Muttaqoon (i.e. those who have Taqwah).'*** [Az Zukhruf 43:67]

Ibn Katheer (rh), commenting on this verse, relates a story on the authority of Ali Ibn Abi Taalib (ra):

Two who are friends for Allaah's sake; when one of them dies and is given the good news that he will be granted al-Jannah, he remembers his friend and he supplicates for him, saying: O Allaah, my friend used to command me to obey You and to obey Your Prophet and used to command me to do good and to forbid me from doing evil. And he told me that I would meet You. O Allaah, do not let him go astray after me, until you show him what you have just shown me, until You are satisfied with him, just like You are satisfied with me." So he is told: "Had you known what is (written) for your friend, you would have laughed a lot and cried a little." Then his friend dies and their souls are gathered, and both are asked to express their opinions about each other. So each one of them says to his friend: you were the best brother, the best companion and the best friend."

And when one of the two disbelieving friends dies, and he is given tidings of Hellfire, he remembers his friend and he says: O Allaah, my friend used to order me to disobey You and disobey Your Prophet, and commanded me to do evil, and forbade me from doing good, and told me that I would not meet You. O Allaah, do not guide him after me, until you show him what you have just shown me and until you are dissatisfied with him as You are dissatisfied with me." Then the other disbelieving friend dies, and their souls are gathered, and both are asked to give their opinions about each other. So each one says to his friend: you were the worst brother, the worst companion and the worst friend." That is the end of those who do not have Taqwah and those who befriend for a sake other than that of Allaah the Exalted.

The Prophet (saw) said.

'A person will be with those he loves'.

[Bukhaaree & Muslim]

The wise person is the one who prepares himself for the Hereafter, not the one who neglects his faith and falls into the trap of Shaytaan who tells him that he will be forgiven and that he can do whatever he wishes. We must realise that those who take us away from remembering Allaah, from obeying Him and His Prophet (saw), those who fail to remind us of our daily prayers and those who do not give us sincere advice in regard to our Deen; such are really our foes and not our friends.

On the other side, a believer is the mirror of his brother and if he sees any faults in the other, he draws his attention to it, helping him to give it up and wipe away any evil that he may have. Ibn Hazm said: Anyone who criticises you cares about your friendship. Anyone who makes light of your faults cares nothing about you."

"O you who believe! Take care of your own selves. If you follow the right guidance and enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong no hurt can come to you from those who are in error. The return of you all is to Allah, then He will inform you about (all) that which you used to do."

[Al Maa'idah 5:105]