

Wisdom with Friends

Proverbs 10:27-30; 11:3, 5-11, 19-21, 27, 30

If we have heard anything throughout this study in Proverbs, hopefully we have heard the importance of considering the ways in which we live!

The choices we make matter! They have consequences – good & bad, now & in eternity! **Haggai 1:7 – “Give careful thought to your ways.”**

All our choices/ways can be summed up by two directional paths - there is a way that leads to life and there is a way that leads to destruction!

Jesus said it this way, **“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.” – Matthew 7:13-14.** Which path are you on?

Wisdom calls us to consider our path, but to also consider the paths of those we surround ourselves with (our friends). For they alter our path!

You’ve heard the saying “Show me your friends & I’ll tell you who you are.”

Proverbs 13:20 – “Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.” Who we associate with matters!

A great example of this is Lot’s association with the people of Sodom.

Lot made a series of bad relationship choices, and it altered his path, leading him down the pathway of destruction, and destruction was the result!

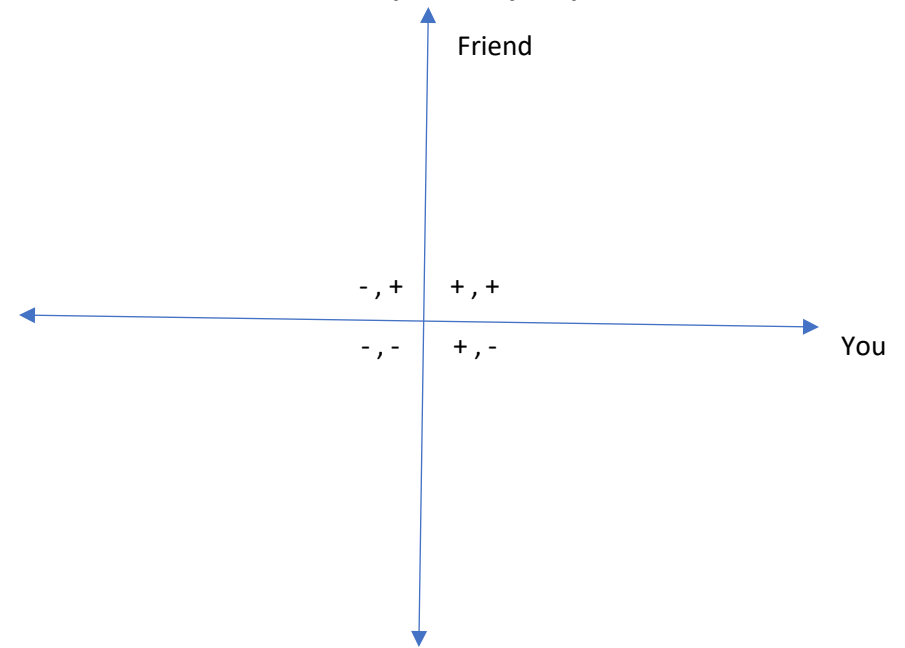
Our friendships matter, & it’s not only important who we choose to be friends with, but also the direction that that relationship is taking!

James says it this way, **“Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.” – James 4:4**

The “world” represents people and ideas, relationships and choices!

Last week I shared 4 friendship categories that helped identify the types of friends we have. Today I want to share a graph that shows the directional paths our relationships take, in hopes to reveal the path we are on together.

Relationship Pathway Graph:



There are 4 quadrants that Relationships fall into:

- 1) +, + Both you and your friend are seeking God’s Kingdom together!
- 2) +, - You are seeking God’s Kingdom but your friend is not!
- 3) -, + Your friend is seeking God’s Kingdom but you are not!
- 4) -, - Both you and your friend are not seeking the Kingdom of God!

I’ll share a few examples from my life, & you plot the coordinates of yours!

What pathway are your relationships taking? What direction are they headed?

Ask this question: **“Is this friendship drawing us both closer to God, or one/both of us away from Him & His Kingdom?”**

Who is influencing who? What changes need to be made?

Ask this question: **“Should this be a relationship I have in my life? If so, what needs to change about it?”**

We need both Christian & non-Christian friends in our lives, but we also need wisdom to choose the right pathway to navigate those relationships!

A proverbs-driven, fool-proof life is one that understands the reality of **Proverbs 12:26 – “One who is righteous is a guide to his neighbor, but the way of the wicked leads them astray”** and seeks to live in response to it!

10-14-18 Wisdom with Friends
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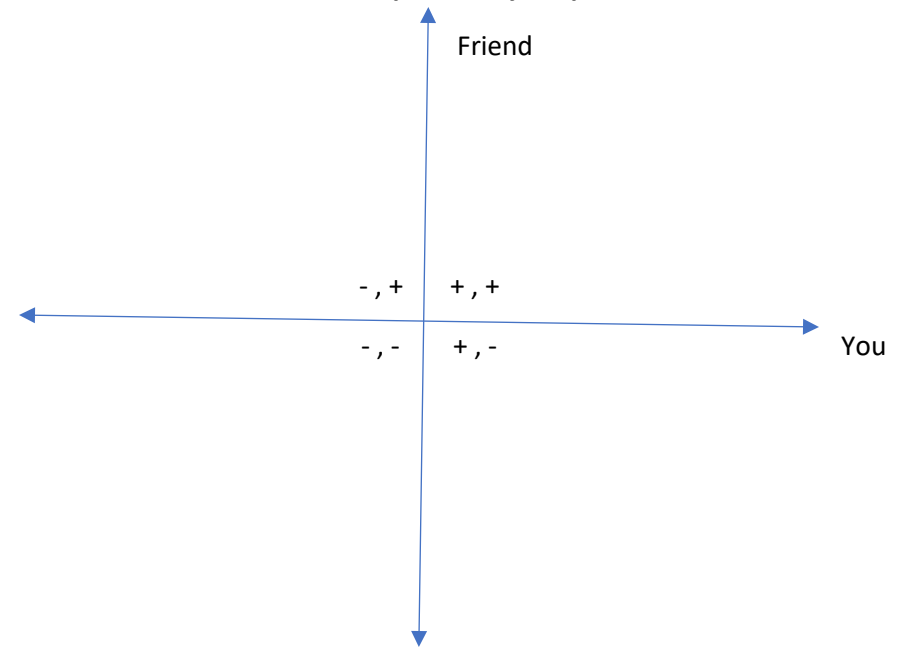
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