> Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.”
> — *1 Corinthians 15:33*

Book: New Testament / 1 Corinthians
Topics: friendship, evil, goodness

Interpretation:
1 Corinthians 15:33 warns us of the dangers of bad company and its destructive effect on our good habits. The words we use and the people we associate with can have a significant impact on our spiritual and emotional lives.

The way we speak and the people we associate with greatly influence our behavior. If we are surrounded by people who speak negatively of others, we are more likely to behave in the same way. On the other hand, if we are surrounded by optimistic and positive people, we are more likely to maintain a healthy and positive outlook.

Bad company not only has a negative impact on our habits and behavior, but also on our faith. If we spend time with people who speak negatively of God and do not pay spiritual attention to their lives, we are more likely to backslide from our faith. In fact, the Bible encourages us to surround ourselves with those who have a positive outlook on life and seek more righteous and spiritual paths.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.
> — *1 John 4:21*

Book: New Testament / 1 John
Topics: friendship, law, love

Interpretation:

Love is a recurring theme in the Bible, from God's love for us to the love we should have for our neighbors. In *1 John 4:21*, we are reminded that whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Why is it important to love your neighbor?

Loving others, your neighbor, is an action that goes beyond simply doing a good deed. *Jesus* taught us that we are to love our neighbor as ourselves; this means that we should treat others with the same love and consideration that we would like to receive in our relationships with them.

Loving our neighbor not only allows us to live in harmony with others, but it also strengthens our relationship with God. When we love our neighbor, we demonstrate God's love for us, since we are all God's children and deserve the same love and respect.

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> Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.
>
> *— 1 John 4:7*

Book: New Testament / 1 John
Topics: friendship, love, neighbor, rebirth

Interpretation:
In 1 John, *the apostle* reminds us of the importance of love in our lives. *1 John 4:7* clearly states that we should love one another, but why is this so important? Love is one of the hallmarks of Christians and a sign of God's love for us.

Love from God

When we speak of love as a hallmark of Christians, we mean a love that goes beyond mere affection or gratitude. The love that God expects from us is a love that is given unconditionally, that expects nothing in return, and that is able to forgive even the gravest offenses. This kind of love can only come from God, for it is He who shows us how to love in this way.

Love gives us knowledge of God

1 John 4:7 also says that he who loves is born of God and knows God. That is, love brings us closer to God and allows us to know Him better. If we want to truly know God, we must love, for only then can we understand His love and mercy.

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> If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.
> — *Ecclesiastes 4:10*

Book: Old Testament / Ecclesiastes
Topics: friendship, neighbor, relationships

Interpretation:
Ecclesiastes is a book of the Bible written by King *Solomon*, reflecting on the meaning of life and the pursuit of happiness. In this book, Solomon speaks of the futility of earthly pleasures and the importance of God's presence in our lives. This verse is found in chapter 4, where Solomon speaks of oppression and injustice in the world.

The value of mutual support

This verse speaks of the importance of mutual support and how we need others to overcome difficulties. In life, we always face difficulties and obstacles, but when there is someone who supports us and offers help, everything becomes easier. When we find ourselves in a difficult situation, it is important to have someone who will listen and support us.

Furthermore, mutual support allows us to grow together. By sharing our experiences and knowledge with others, we can learn from them and improve as individuals. The Bible teaches us to love our neighbors as ourselves, and mutual support is a practical manifestation of this love.

The danger of loneliness

This verse also reminds us of the dangers of loneliness. When we are alone, we can feel helpless and lost. The lack of communication and support can lead to sadness and depression. Moreover, when we are alone, we are more vulnerable to the attacks of the enemy.

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> Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.
> *— Ecclesiastes 4:12*

Book: Old Testament / Ecclesiastes
Topics: friendship, relationships, strength

Interpretation:
The Bible is full of truthful and wise messages that encourage us to reflect on our daily lives. The Book of Ecclesiastes offers us a very important verse to reflect on – *Ecclesiastes 4:12* – which speaks to the importance of community and how we can achieve more together.

One may overcome another, but two shall stand

First, the verse says, *"Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves."* This means that if someone faces overwhelming odds, it is important to enlist the help and support of others to avoid being defeated. Life can be difficult, and we face many challenges, but having friends or family by our side makes it easier to overcome obstacles. The Bible encourages us to build a community of trust, where each member can provide support to others.

A threefold cord is not quickly broken

The verse continues, *"A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."* This is about the strength found in working together. A threefold cord is stronger than a doubled one. Similarly, when we are united, we can achieve more and overcome challenges more easily. This is especially important in emergency or crisis situations, when a cohesive group can make a huge difference.

Unity in diversity

It's important to remember that community is more than just people who share our views or beliefs. Diversity and inclusivity are fundamental principles for building a strong community. While it's tempting to surround yourself with like-minded people, it's important to have a diverse group of people who can offer different perspectives and skills. Unity in diversity is a powerful force in overcoming challenges.

The Bible teaches us to seek support in community and work together to achieve more. It reminds us of the need to be there for each other not only in crisis situations but also in everyday life. It is important to have people around us who support us and inspire us in our difficulties and dreams.

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> Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor.
> — *Ecclesiastes 4:9*

Book: Old Testament / Ecclesiastes
Topics: friendship, relationships, work

Interpretation:
Before delving into the meaning and application of *Ecclesiastes 4:9*, it is essential to understand the context and background of the book. Ecclesiastes was written by King *Solomon*—considered the wisest man in the Bible—likely toward the end of his life. In this book, Solomon reflects on the vanity and meaninglessness of life, seeking answers through wisdom and experience.

In the chapters preceding verse 4:9, Solomon contemplates the loneliness and sorrow experienced by someone who works in isolation, with no one to share their labors or offer support during difficult times. It is against this backdrop that the assertion arises: two are better than one.

This verse teaches us the importance of teamwork, collaboration, and joining forces to achieve common goals. Two people working together can accomplish far more in less time and achieve superior results compared to working alone. This holds especially true in a professional setting, where collaboration and teamwork are vital to the success of any company or project. However, the message of *Ecclesiastes 4:9* applies to other aspects of life as well, such as interpersonal relationships, family, friendship, and faith.

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> You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.
>
> — *James 4:4*

Book: New Testament / James
Topics: friendship, God, sin, world

Interpretation:
The Apostle *James* calls some people “adulterers” in this passage, and this does not mean that they are committing adultery, but rather that they are unfaithful to God in a spiritual sense. He confronts us with a shocking truth: to be a friend of the world is to be an enemy of God. But what does this phrase mean?

Friendship of the world

Friendship with the world is not simply having friends who are not Christians. Rather, it is loving the things of the world instead of loving God. This means that our loyalties are divided as we try to please God and at the same time fit in and be accepted by the world. When we feel that we must compromise our spiritual behavior in order to be accepted by society, our friendship with God is threatened.

Enemies of God

Being a friend of the world puts us in an antagonistic position toward God. Instead of placing our loyalty on Him, we place it on the world, on its desires and expectations. We feel comfortable when our opinions are accepted and considered normal in society, and we feel anxious when our beliefs differ from those of others. In this sense, our focus shifts from God and His plan for our lives to pleasing others and earning their approval.

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> Anyone who withholds kindness from a friend forsakes the fear of the Almighty.
>
> — *Job 6:14*

Book: Old Testament / Job
Topics: friendship, awe, neighbor

Interpretation:
Job 6:14 speaks of the importance of comfort in times of suffering. The book of Job tells the story of one of the most famous characters in the Old Testament, who endured a series of trials that tested his faith and patience in God.

In this passage, *Job* reflects on the importance of having a companion to share his suffering. This emphasizes the need for someone to be present in moments of pain and loneliness to offer comfort and support.

Furthermore, this verse speaks of those who have lost the fear *of the Almighty*. This can be interpreted as those who have lost faith in God or have strayed from His path.

How can we apply this to our lives?

Comfort is necessary during times of pain and suffering, and this lesson applies to all people, regardless of their religion or beliefs. In difficult times, we all need support and companionship.

In this sense, we can apply this teaching to our relationships with others. We should be ready to offer comfort and support to our friends, family, and acquaintances if they are going through difficult times. Furthermore, we can seek the comfort we need from others by sharing our struggles and concerns with those we trust.

On the other hand, this verse also teaches us the importance of not losing faith in God. While this teaching is especially relevant for believers, we can interpret it more broadly. In times of suffering, it's easy to doubt the meaning of our existence or God's role in our lives. However, maintaining faith in a higher power can help us find meaning in our trials and give us the strength to move forward.

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> Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.
> *— John 15:13*

Book: New Testament / John
Topics: friendship, love, sacrifice

Interpretation:
John 15:13 is a verse that tells us about the *love of Christ for us*. This love is so great that He was willing to die for us. And ultimately, He gave Himself for us, for our sins!

The love of Christ

The love of Christ is immeasurable, and there is no one in the world whose love is as great as His. He was willing to give His life for us to save us from our sins. This love is beyond anything we can imagine. Christ loved us even when we were sinners and did not deserve His love.

Love for our friends

This passage also teaches us about the love we should have for our friends. Jesus tells us that greater love has no one than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. We should be willing to sacrifice our time, our resources, and in some cases, even our lives for those we love.

It is important to note, however, that we should be careful in choosing our friends and those for whom we are willing to lay down our lives. We should not have friends who lead us into sin, but those who help us grow in our relationship with God.

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> A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends.
> *— Proverbs 16:28*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: friendship, gossip, honesty, lying

Interpretation:
The book of Proverbs is one of the most important books in the Bible because it is a collection of wisdom on how to live righteously and godly. In this book, we find many verses that tell us about the importance of honesty and healthy relationships with others. One such verse is *Proverbs 16:28*, which talks about gossip and strife.

An evil man sows discord

Proverbs 16:28 begins with the words, “A perverse person stirs up conflict.” Here we are clearly shown that a perverse person sows discord in his surroundings. The word “perverse” in this context refers to someone who acts wickedly and deceitfully, without regard for the pain and suffering it may cause to others.

It is important to think about how our actions may negatively affect others, especially our loved ones. A person who sows discord not only causes pain and suffering to others, but also harms himself.

Gossip Separates the Best of Friends

The second part of *Proverbs 16:28* says, “gossip separates close friends.” This verse speaks of the dangers of gossip, which can negatively affect our interpersonal relationships and cause serious emotional damage. Gossip is a way of talking badly about others behind their back. When we speak badly of someone, we violate their privacy and trust, which can cause emotional and psychological harm.

Gossip can separate even the best of friends, especially when it involves unfounded rumors or false information. It can damage people’s reputations, which can have serious and long-lasting consequences.

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> A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.
> — *Proverbs 17:17*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: friendship, family, relationships

Interpretation:
The Book of Proverbs is one of the wise books of the Bible, full of advice and guidance on how to live a full and wise life. In this book there is chapter 17, verse 17, which tells us about the importance of friendship at all times.

A friend loves at all times

Friendship is a gift from God that we should treasure and cultivate. It can provide us with comfort, support, and companionship in times of sadness and discouragement. A true friend is someone who is

willing to be there for us in any circumstances, no matter what difficulties we face.

It is extremely important in our lives to surround ourselves with friends who support and strengthen us in our daily struggles. Friendship is a form of love that gives us the opportunity to be a blessing to others.

Friendship in the Bible

Friendship is a recurring theme in the Bible. In the Old Testament we find examples of strong friendships, such as *Jonathan and David*, who remained loyal and faithful friends even in difficult situations. In the New Testament, *Jesus* himself speaks of friendship: *“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (John 15:13)*.

Friendship is an expression of love that allows us to feel the presence of God in our lives. It is through love and friendship that we can feel the hand of God in our lives and find peace in our hearts.

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> Whoever would foster love covers over an offense, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.
>
> *— Proverbs 17:9*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: friendship, Forgiveness

Interpretation:
The book of Proverbs is considered one of the wisest and most helpful books in the Bible. It offers advice for everyday life that helps us develop and maintain healthy relationships with others.

In this verse, we are faced with a very common situation in interpersonal relationships. We all make mistakes, sometimes we do things that we regret and prefer not to reveal. How should we act in such cases? Wise *King Solomon* tells us that the one who covers up or conceals the wrongdoing of another seeks love and friendship.

The first part of the verse says, “Whoever would foster love covers over an offense.” Here we are encouraged to be humble and admit the mistakes of others. Such a person seeks to strengthen the

relationship by showing mercy and understanding for the shortcomings of another. He does not flaunt the sins of others, thereby showing respect and striving to strengthen the friendship.

On the other hand, the second part of the verse says, “but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.” This part is very clear: if we devote ourselves to revealing other people’s mistakes, all we will achieve is to alienate our friends. We must always remember that trust is the foundation of any relationship. If we betray someone’s trust, we jeopardize our relationship with that person.

It is important to emphasize that this advice from King Solomon applies to any situation, both personal and professional. At work, we often have confidential information about our colleagues or the company, and if we do not keep it to ourselves, we can jeopardize our job or relationships with colleagues.

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> One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.
>
> — *Proverbs 18:24*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: friendship, family

Interpretation:
Proverbs is a biblical book known for its wisdom and practical lessons for everyday life. Among its many verses, *chapter 18:24* calls us to consider the need to develop healthy and sincere social relationships.

The importance of friendliness

The verse begins with a discussion of the importance of friendliness and openness. Friendship is a value cultivated through the openness of our hearts and a willingness to communicate sincerely with others. Friendship is the foundation of brotherly relationships and the building of a network of support and mutual assistance.

Friendship as a reflection of love

Friendship is an extension of our love for others, and that is why we must be diligent in this regard. The Bible teaches us that love is expressed in many ways. Friendship is one of them, and by cultivating friendship, we open our hearts to love others. We cannot be true friends if we do not truly love others.

Friendship in the Bible

Friendship is a recurring theme in the Bible. Various books demonstrate the importance of friendship for spiritual, emotional, and social growth. In the New Testament, *Jesus* is portrayed as a faithful and close friend to His disciples. In the Book of Proverbs itself, we find verses exhorting us to cherish our friendships and choose them carefully.

Friendship vs. companionship

It's important to distinguish between friendship and mere companionship. Friendship implies emotional commitment and a deep connection between people. Companionship, on the other hand, is limited to shared moments and situations without a deep emotional connection. It's important to remember that the presence of friends in our lives is not a matter of quantity, but of quality.

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> Do not forsake your friend or a friend of your family, and do not go to your relative’s house when disaster strikes you— better a neighbor nearby than a relative far away.
>
> *— Proverbs 27:10*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: friendship, family, neighbor

Interpretation:
The Bible is full of teachings that guide us to a fulfilling and virtuous life. One of the most important aspects of our lives is true and strong friendship. *Proverbs 27:10* reminds us of the importance of maintaining close relationships during difficult times.

Do not forsake your friend or a friend of your family

We are called to care for our friends and be faithful to them even in difficult and challenging times. This verse shows us the importance of keeping true friends close during times of sorrow, when we most need their support and encouragement. In such moments, it's important to show humility and accept the help of others.

Do not go to your relative's house when disaster strikes you

This verse also emphasizes the importance of close friends, not distant siblings. While family is important, we can have friends who are as close as our own family. True friends are those who are always willing to support us and even sacrifice for us.

The importance of having close friends

In conclusion, the teaching of *Proverbs 27:10* is clear: true friendship is a priceless treasure in any situation. Our close friends can provide us with invaluable support along the path of life, especially during difficult times. We must cherish and nurture these friendships, just as we expect to be good friends in difficult times.

Even when our families are far away, we can find comfort and strength in the close relationships we've built along the way. As Christians, we should follow *Christ's* example of friendship and always strive to cultivate close and sincere friendships in our lives.

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> As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.
> — *Proverbs 27:17*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: friendship, mind, relationships

Interpretation:
Proverbs 27:17 uses a metaphor to show that people can improve their skills and character through interactions with others. Just as two pieces of iron sharpen each other, two friends can help each other become better people.

Application to our daily lives

This verse is very relevant to our daily lives, as it shows us the importance of surrounding ourselves with good friends. We often have friends who don't bring out the best in us, but it's important to seek out those who challenge us and help us grow as individuals.

Furthermore, this verse can also be applied to work. If we want to improve and develop our skills, it's important to seek out people with deeper knowledge in the area we want to improve. By interacting with them, we can learn from their experience and insights.

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> How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!
> *— Psalm 133:1*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms
Topics: friendship, community, family

Interpretation:
Psalm 133:1 is one of the most famous verses in the Bible that emphasizes the importance of unity and harmony among brothers. The word *“God’s people”* or *"brothers"* does not refer to a literal family relationship, but rather to those who share the same values, beliefs, and goals in the Christian faith.

Why is harmony among brothers and sisters important?

Harmony among fellow believers is of great importance in the life of a Christian and the Church as a whole. When there is unity and common understanding among church members, an atmosphere of love, peace, and solidarity is created, which allows for effective leadership and more productive teamwork.

When a community of believers lives together in harmony, the gospel message is more effective and God’s grace is more clearly seen. Consider what *Jesus* says in *John 13:35: “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*

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> God sets the lonely in families, he leads out the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.
>
> — *Psalm 68:6*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms
Topics: friendship, freedom, obedience, punishment

Interpretation:
Psalm 68:6 is a biblical verse from the Book of Psalms. This passage is a beautiful testimony of God's love and care for those who have been abandoned. The psalmist teaches us that God desires all people to have a home to live in, a family to share with, and prosperity. However, he also reminds us that those who rebel against God will not receive these blessings.

The meaning of homelessness

To fully understand the meaning of this verse, we must understand the word "abandoned." This word refers to someone who has been abandoned, ignored, or left alone in a difficult time. This can manifest itself in many ways in our daily lives: whether it's job loss, family conflict, or a debilitating illness.

In all of these situations, it's easy to feel abandoned and unsure who can help us. It's in these moments that we must remember that God is always there for us and His love is unconditional.

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> I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong— that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith.
>
> — *Romans 1:11-12*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: friendship, encouragement, faith, strength

Interpretation:

The *Apostle Paul* wrote the book of Romans while he was in Corinth raising funds for the poor believers in Jerusalem. While there, he had a great desire to visit the church in Rome to strengthen and edify them.

In *Romans 1:11*, Paul expresses his desire to visit the church to share spiritual gifts and strengthen the believers. *Spiritual gifts* are divine abilities that the *Holy Spirit* gives to believers for service and to build up the church. Paul wanted to share these gifts with the church in Rome so that they would grow in their faith and witness.

The meaning of spiritual gifts

What are spiritual gifts? In *1 Corinthians 12:4-11*, Paul says that gifts are manifestations of the Holy Spirit for the benefit of the community. Gifts include wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, spiritual discernment, tongues, and their interpretation. Every believer receives a spiritual gift for the building up of the church.

When Paul says he wants to share a spiritual gift with the church in Rome, he could have any of these gifts in mind. What is important is that the gift he shares will strengthen and edify the believers.

Common comfort

In *verse 12*, Paul explains that his desire to visit them is not just to teach, but to be comforted by the faith we share. This verse gives us insight into the importance of fellowship and connection in our Christian faith.

The word *“comfort”* in this verse can be understood as the strengthening that comes from fellowship with other believers. That is, when we gather with other Christians, we can find comfort, support, and encouragement in our faith.

The idea of ??a *“common faith”* shows us that our Christian faith is not something we experience individually, but rather a commitment shared with other believers. By sharing a common faith with others, we can help each other grow spiritually and stand firm in our Christian convictions.

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