

Wisdom from the Proverbs

"A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:" —
Proverbs 1:5.

Companions

The Proverbs give us practical and blessed wisdom for every-day living. It has been well said that "Birds of a feather flock together." The Holy Spirit has shed much light on the subject of companions.

What does the word "companion" mean?

Companion, noun: One who associates with or accompanies another; a mate; a fellow. An associate *in*, a sharer or partaker *of*.

companion-in-arms: fellowsoldier. — *Oxford English Dictionary*

Companion, verb: To go or be with as a companion; to accompany. *lit. and fig. intransitive* — To associate, consort, or keep company. — *Oxford English Dictionary*

Proverbs 13:20 *He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a **companion** of fools shall be destroyed.*

- Fools, in Scripture, are not people void of intelligence or ability—but are those void of understanding or moral sense; as idolaters, and as wicked. The Proverbs shows us the difference between wise men and fools. A wise man is one to whom God has made Jesus Christ wisdom—in other words, he is wise. Those who are not in Christ are fools and void of spiritual understanding. People of the world are our mission field—but these are not good companions. We may eat and drink with them as Jesus did, but not be intimate companions with them.

Proverbs 28:7 *Whoso keepeth the law is a wise son: but he that is a **companion** of riotous men shameth his father.*

- The Proverbs are written in comparisons and contrasts. This verse is a good example of that. A wise son keeps the law. God's children ought to keep every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake in order that he may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men. On the other hand, one who companies with riotous men shames his father. What is a riotous man? He is a troublesome, difficult person given to wantonness, revelry, or a dissolute life— an extravagant man or woman. To company with such persons shames our family, friends, and most of all—our God.
- Some of these people are greedy of gain and will stop at nothing, even to shedding the blood of innocent people to gain their selfish ends. The Holy Ghost warns wise men against walking with such persons.

• **Proverbs 1:10-18** *My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause: Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit: We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil: Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse: My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path: For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood. Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird. And they lay wait for their own blood; they lurk privily for their own lives.*

Proverbs 29:3 *Whoso loveth wisdom rejoiceth his father: but he that keepeth **company** with harlots spendeth his substance.*

- Both harlots and strange women have wounded and slain many strong men who chose to keep company with them. The Holy Spirit moved Solomon to write two whole chapters in the Proverbs to warn men of the ways of lewd women. While a virtuous woman's price is far above rubies, the harlot or strange woman is a deep pit. Both chapter five and seven of Proverbs give stern warnings about the harlot and the strange woman.

• **Proverbs 5:7-13** *Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth. Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house: Lest thou give thine honour unto others, and thy years unto the cruel: Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth; and thy labours be in the house of a stranger; And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed, And say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof; And have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me!*

• **Proverbs 7:10-12** . . . *there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart. (She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house: . . . 18-23 Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves. For the goodman is not at home, he is gone a long journey: . . . With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him. He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks; Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life.*