

But I Like Being in the Wrong Crowd!

Why do we like the Bad Guys?

We are all guilty of this! This is not just to the “bad kids”. Everytime we slide into the filthy jokes, and laughing at the wrong thing, we are guilty of this.

What is the Wrong Crowd?

Any group of people whose values and standards do not reflect (are contradictory) to those of the Bible. This is evident by their lifestyles, their speech and what they consider important.

Why is the Wrong Crowd sometimes attractive to us?

1. It's Natural (we have a sin nature)

Rom 7:21-25

21 So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. 22 For in my inner being I delight in God's law; 23 but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. 24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God-through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

2. Acceptance
3. Escape from troubles
4. The Call of the Dark Side –we think it's more attractive

Dangers of Being with the Wrong Crowd?

1. Led astray by the foolish / No godly counsel

Prov 10:23 A fool finds pleasure in evil conduct, but a man of understanding delights in wisdom.

2. Compromise and Confusion of beliefs

Prov 12:15 The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.

3. False notion of friendship that will end in destruction

Prov 19:4 Wealth brings many friends, but a poor man's friend deserts him.

4. Destroys your witness

5. Darkness (you've got to make a decision –they can't mix!)

2 Cor 6:14-18

*Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. **For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?***

1 Thess 5:5-7

5 You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. 6 So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled.

John 3:19-21

19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God."

Luke 11:33-36

33 "No one lights a lamp and puts it in a place where it will be hidden, or under a bowl. Instead he puts it on its stand, so that those who come in may see the light. 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."

6. God's Discipline

Heb 12:7-11

God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? 8 If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. 9 Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! 10 Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. 11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Helps

1. Examine your heart – Which side are you on? Make up your mind.

John 8:12

*12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. **Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.**"*

Ask these questions:

- a. Am I a Christian?
- b. If so, am I desiring the things of God
- c. DO YOU REALLY ENJOY BEING WITH THE WRONG CROWD?
If so, I challenge you to examine your relationship with the Lord
- d. If so, do the friends I hang out with reflect those desires
- e. Something has to give – you can not have it both ways!

2. Expose the bad guys

Eph 5:8-14

8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) 10 and find out what pleases the Lord. 11 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. 13 But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, 14 for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Ask yourself?

How are they going to solve my problems?

Are they really my friends?
How will they stand up to the light?

3. Use the force! The Holy Spirit