

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Choosing of a friend

Not all friends are of one type, and their temperaments may differ greatly, therefore it is of utmost importance to choose the correct friend.

Friends are of three types:

1. One is a friend of the tablecloth; he befriends you when you have something to offer him e.g., wealth, services, or any other worldly gains. When everything is going well for you, or for him, he is your friend, and as soon as you don't have anything to offer him, or he does not need you anymore, he is nowhere to be seen.
2. Friend just by the tongue (mere lip service), in other words, he says he is your very good friend, but in reality, he is not. When you are in need of any assistance, he will always have an excuse.
3. A true and sincere friend, is he who is by your side during happiness and difficulties, through thick and thin. He is not only concerned about your worldly life, but also your hereafter. Cling on to such friends as they are very rare to find. A true and sincere friend, befriends you for the pleasure of Allah Ta'ālā.

Virtue of keeping friendship for the pleasure of Allah Ta'ālā

Two such people who love each other for the pleasure of Allah Ta'ālā, will enjoy the shade of the Arsh (throne) of Allah Ta'ālā on the day of judgement, when there will be no other shade, but the shade of Allah Ta'ālā.¹

¹ Bukhari & Muslim

Stay in the company of righteous people

Keeping good company is like the one selling perfume, there is benefit by merely passing him, just as there is benefit by buying some perfume from him. In both cases your mind will remain well scented.

Evil company is like sitting close to a person who blows into a furnace, either your clothes may burn, or the smoke is going to cause your mind to be stained.²

The Prophet صلى الله عليه و سلم said: A man follows the religion of his friend; so, each one should consider whom he makes his friend.³

By staying in the company of evil people, their habits will rub onto you, and when choosing a friend, always see who he accompanies, as this will tell you what kind of person he is.

There is an old saying:

كبوتر با كبوتر، باز با باز

Pigeons keep company with pigeons, and hawks with hawks (birds of a feather flock together).⁴

Therefore, we should remain in the company of the men of Allah Ta'ālā (Ahlullāh). The longer we remain in their blessed company, the more their qualities and good habits will entrench into our hearts. A true friend is he who is concerned about your hereafter and is with you during adversity. Therefore, one should accompany those who are true in their friendship.

From the discourses of (Moulana) Sajid Ibrahim Sufi (DB),

06th December 2022.

و صلى الله على النبي الكريم و الحمد لله رب العالمين

Email: attazkirah@ihyaaussunnah.uk

Website: www.ihyaaussunnah.uk

² Source used: Self reformation & the Tablighi Jama'at by Hakimul Islam Hadhrat Qari Muhammad Tayyab Saheb رحمه الله عليه

³ Abu Dawud

⁴ For friends by Hadhrat Moulana Masihullah Khan Saheb رحمه الله عليه