

What Are “Evil Companions”?

The **KJV** in 1 Corinthians 15:33 has, “*Evil communications* (that, too, would be corrupting - BC) *corrupt good manners.*” The **ASV** has, “*Evil companionships corrupt good morals.*” The **NKJV** has, “*Evil company corrupts good habits.*” The **NIV** has, “*Bad company corrupts good character.*” The **NASB** has, “*Bad company corrupts good morals.*” Reference is made in 1 Corinthians 15:33 not just to the people you come in contact with, live by, work with, do business with, but to those whose company or association you desire, seek, cultivate and maintain -- those you choose to be your associates and friends.

Evil companions would be those whose lives are evil, who have no fear of God, no reverence for God, no respect for God’s word, no desire to be pleasing to God, no interest in spiritual things. They would be those whose thoughts, words and deeds are not pleasing to God; those whose aims, desires and delights are sinful; those whose example you are not to follow, for you are not to be like them; those whose influence will only harm you; those who will only serve as stumbling-blocks to you.

What Is The Danger Of Evil Companions?

Look at the first paragraph in this article. We are not only known by the company we keep; we usually become like them. Paul says they “*corrupt* (destroy, bring into a worse state) *good morals*” (manners, habits, conduct, character; it refers to ethical conduct). Many people, especially young people, learn to smoke tobacco, to drink alcoholic beverages, to experiment with illegal and mind-altering drugs, to curse, to lie or deceive, to tell filthy stories, to dress or undress immodestly and indecently, to dance licentiously, to defy authority and rules, to ridicule high standards, to delight in obscene and vulgar books, magazines, movies and TV programs, to abuse other people, to engage in all kinds of fornication, to steal and cheat **because of evil companions.**

Many Christians lose interest in spiritual things, become bored with Bible reading, Bible study, Bible classes and worship assemblies **because of evil companions.** They cease to pray to God, to read their Bibles, and to assemble with Christians. Among their worldly companions they are embarrassed about their professed identity as Christians. If you would be too ashamed or too embarrassed to invite your companions to church services, you have the wrong kind of companions. (Sandy Koufax was a devout Jew and refused to play any baseball games on a Saturday. While Lindy McDaniel was playing baseball, he cared enough about other players to try to teach them the gospel.)

Many worldly people find it a challenge, a source of pleasure, to try to corrupt others. They seek them out and look for those more easily influenced. This gives a boost to their ego and convinces them that all Christians are weak, hypocritical and self-righteous. Give them neither occasion nor quarter.

Do you work at making your companions better, or do you allow them to influence you to become worse? Of course, if we as Christians are weak and hypocritical, we can influence nobody for good.

We need to know how hard worldly people will work at corrupting our good morals, By flattery and smooth words, by an appeal to vanity (“Are you afraid? Are you chicken? Are you a square or a wimp?”), by an appeal to lust (“It will be so much fun. It will give so much pleasure.”), by an appeal to, of all things, loyalty or love (make you think you have to prove your loyalty or your love by some sinful act).

By constant exposure to and contact with wrong, we become accustomed to it -- the devil, through evil companions, will try to move us from opposition, to indifference, to toleration, to acceptance, to defense, to justification.

To What Kind Of People Are You Drawn?

Whose companionship, association and friendship do you prefer and seek? What is the character of your companions and friends? Do you have more in common with people who are not Christians than you do with faithful Christians? Do you prefer the companionship of those who are not Christians? -- in your neighborhood, at school, at work or business, in pleasure pursuits? One of our problems may be presented by the fact that we spend so much more time in the company of worldly people than we do in the company of our brethren in the Lord

What Is The Solution To The Problem Of Evil Companions?

Be the Christian you ought to be and evil people will not want your companionship -- or, if they do, they will cease to be evil. Try to convert any evil companions you might have, and they will either begin to avoid you or, if you succeed, cease to be evil. Please read Proverbs 13:20; 22:24-25; 24:21; 28:19; 29:3,24.