

# The Bible advises us to choose our friends wisely

The Bible advises us to choose our friends wisely. 1 Corinthians 15:33 says, "Do not be misled. Bad associations spoil useful habits." Proverbs 13:20 says, "He that is walking with wise persons will become wise, but he that is having dealings with the stupid ones will fare badly."



**sharon corcoran**  
• use it or lose it

Yes, the Bible recognizes the power of peer pressure. It can work for good or for bad. Who are our peers? Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines "peer" as "one that is of equal standing with another" and gives the second definition, "companion."

Sometimes we have peers who are forced upon us, for example, when children go to school, they have no choice as to who their classmates will be. And in the workplace, we have little choice about who our peers are. But other peers are chosen, our companions.

Those companions are the people most likely to have an influence on us. We choose to spend as much time with them as possible. They are the people we trust to give us advice and to help us in times of need. They are the people we go to when we just need to talk.

That being the case, their values influence us, and ours influence them. A friend from Mexico told me an expression that translated into English means, "You show me who your friends are, and I will show you who you are."

The people we spend our time

with mold us, and they also tell others what we value. If we didn't like someone's personality or had no common interests with that person, would we spend a great deal of time with him? No. We spend the most time with the people we feel the most comfortable with and whose company we enjoy the most. Our choice of friends tell others who we are.

Our friends can influence us for good or bad. We often mimic the behavior of those we spend the most time with. If we care what those around us think, and most of us do, we will change our behavior to please our peers. The apostle Peter made a wrong choice in that regard.

At Galatians 2:11-13, Paul says, "However, when Cephas (Peter) came to Antioch, I resisted him face

to face, because he stood condemned. For before the arrival of certain men from James, he used to eat with people of the nations; but when they arrived, he went withdrawing and separating himself, in fear of those of the circumcised class. The rest of the Jews also joined him in putting on this pretense, so that even Barnabas was led along with them in their pretense."

Even though Peter was the one who initially helped Gentiles to become Christians, when faced with peer pressure, he treated the Gentiles in the congregation as outcasts. And Peter's actions influenced others to do the same.

But Paul was a true friend. When he saw what was going on, he confronted Peter about it face to face and told him what was wrong with his actions. This helped to set Peter straight, and he continued to be

friends with Paul and made things right with the Gentile Christians he had separated himself from. These are the kind of friends we need to have and need to be, those who provide a good influence.

Proverbs 17:17 says, "A true companion is loving all the time, and is a brother that is born for when there is distress."

We need friends who will be there for us, and we need to be the type of friends who are there for others. Those are our strong bonds.

If those who are our closest friends are what the above Proverb refers to as "stupid ones," we will fare badly. How so? If you go shopping with a friend, and that friend is caught shoplifting, you will most likely be arrested too.

If you give in to pressure to hide a friend's crime from the police, you have committed a crime yourself. And do you benefit in any way from

doing that? No, the person who benefits is the one who cared so little about you as to drag you down with him.

If a friend leaves drugs or stolen property in your house or car, and the police find it when you are the only one there, you are the one in possession of those items, even if you didn't know they were there.

So our choice of friends can influence us for good or bad. We can even be held accountable for things our friends have done.

Proverbs 27:17 says, "By iron, iron itself is sharpened. So one man sharpens the face of another."

If we follow the Bible's advice, we can avoid being dragged down by friends who are only concerned with getting what they want, even if it means committing crimes, and build true friendships with people who will help us to become better ourselves.

## Livestock judging team won national contest

The Kit Carson County 4-H Livestock Judging Team won the National Western Livestock Judging Contest Saturday, Jan. 10, in Denver. The team, representing Colorado, had a total team score of 2196 points, followed by Indiana in second and Texas in third.

Team Members were Brad Mills, Stratton, Colo.; Kyle Bancroft, Vona, Colo.; Maggie Witzel, Kanorado; and Brock Benson, Stratton, Colo. Top teams from 23 states and Canada competed in the contest, held annually by the National Western Stock Show. A total of 94 youth participated in the contest after qualifying in their state contests.

The Kit Carson County team placed first in the sheep division and third in swine and beef divisions. They were high team in placing and second high in reasons.

Mills was the high individual with a score of 754. Bancroft was second high individual with a score of 738. Mills was high individual in the beef division, second in sheep and 12th in swine. Bancroft won the sheep division and placed third in swine. Benson placed 13th in swine. In rea-

sons, Mills was third, Bancroft sixth, Benson 17th, and Witzel was 19th.



Witzel

Each contestant evaluates and places 10 classes of beef cattle, sheep or swine. Following the placing, each youth will justify his placing with a one to two minute oral presentation on six of the classes selected by the contest official prior to the beginning of the contest.

4-H Livestock judging offers opportunities for youths ages eight to 18 to develop skills in decision making, critical thinking, organization, public speaking and self discipline.

Each spring, these young judges compete in multiple contests in various locations around the state of Colorado. In June each year, the state contest is held at Colorado State University to decide which teams go on to represent Colorado at the National Contest.

The Kit Carson County Judging Team is grateful to all who helped make this experience possible by providing livestock practice, purchasing pizzas or cookie dough to help raise funds and by giving donations to cover the cost of the stay in Denver.

## 4-H news

The Beaver Valley 4-H Club met at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at the bowling alley. There were 20 members, two leaders and six adults, for a total of 28 present.

The club had decided to hold its meeting at the bowling alley for its annual Christmas party. Club mem-

bers bowled and ate dinner and had fun hanging out.

Leader Kim Roeder told the club the next meeting would be Monday, Jan. 12, back at the First Christian Church. She told all to have a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year.

## matters of record

### District Traffic

The following traffic fines were paid in the Sherman County District Court:

**Jan. 12** — John F. Couch, 22, of Stephenville, Texas, was fined \$204 for speeding, 96/70.

Barbara Fromholtz, 44, of St. Francis was fined \$10 for no seat belt.

Floyd Wegner, 84, of Goodland


was fined \$120 for improper crossover.

### Goodland Police

The following crimes have been reported to the Goodland Police Department:

**January 9** — Victor S. Kling reported a burglary at 1510 Broadway Ave, and the theft of coins taken, valued at \$171.

## Worship warms the heart



<p><b>Calvary Gospel Church</b>  <b>Pastor:</b> Rev. Steve Rains                  Fourth &amp; College • 899-3605  <b>Sunday:</b> Sunday School: 9:15 am                  Morning Service: 10:30 am                  Small Group Ministries  <b>Wednesday:</b> Prayer and Worship: 7:00 p.m.                  Youth @ the Rock House: 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Our Lady of Perpetual Help</b>  <b>Pastor:</b> Father Norbert Dlabal                  307 W. 13th • 899-7205  <b>Sacrament of Reconciliation:</b>                  4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment  <b>Mass Schedule:</b>                  Saturday: 6 pm, Sunday: 10:30 am  <b>Spanish Mass:</b>                  1st &amp; 3rd Sunday: 2 pm</p>	<p><b>Pleasant Home Church</b>                  Serving the rural community                  for over 100 years                  Rt. 1, Box 180 • 694-2807 • 3190 Road 70  <b>Pastor:</b> Charlie Busch                  694-2242  <b>Sunday:</b> Worship Service: 9 am                  Sunday School: 10 am                  Evening Service: 6 pm</p>
<p><b>Sonrise Christian Church</b>                  Ninth &amp; Caldwell • 899-5398  <b>Minister:</b> Tony Kafka  <b>Youth Minister:</b> Doug Bean  <b>Sunday:</b> Worship Service: 9:30 am                  Sunday School: 10:45 am  <b>Wednesday:</b>                  Junior/Senior High Meeting: 7 pm                  Adult &amp; Children's Classes: 7 pm</p>	<p><b>Word of Life</b>  <b>Joursquare Church</b>                  10th &amp; Clark • 899-5250  <b>Pastor:</b> John Coumerilh  <b>Service Schedule:</b>  <b>Sunday:</b> Worship Celebration                  and Kids' Church: 10:30 am                  First Wednesday: K.W.A.M.!                  Grades 1 through 5: 7 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Iglesia Del Dios Vivo</b>                  La Luz Del Mundo                  Spanish Speaking Church  <b>Minister:</b> Esteban Ortiz B.                  1601 Texas • 899-5275  <b>Daily Prayer:</b> Sunday thru                  Saturday: 5 am &amp; 6 pm  <b>Sunday:</b> Sunday School: 10 am</p>
<p><b>Bible Baptist Church</b>  <b>Pastor:</b> Glenn Hermanson                  Fifth &amp; Broadway                  899-7368  <b>Sunday:</b> Sunday School: 9 am                  Morning Service: 10 am                  Evening Service: 6:30 pm  <b>Wednesday:</b> Evening Bible Study: 7 pm</p>	<p><b>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints</b>                  1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO                  (719) 346-7984  <b>Sacrament Meeting:</b> 10 am  <b>Sunday School:</b> 11:15 am  <b>Priesthood/Relief Society:</b> 12 am</p>	<p><b>Kanorado United Methodist Church</b>  <b>Pastor:</b> Leonard Cox                  399-2468  <b>Sunday:</b> Sunday School: 9 am                  Worship Service: 10:15 am</p>
<p><b>United Methodist Church</b>  <b>Brewster:</b>  <b>Pastor:</b>                  Worship Service: 10:45 am CST                  Sunday School: 9:45 am CST  <b>Winona:</b>  <b>Minister:</b> Rev. Bob Winters                  Worship Service: 9 am CST                  Sunday School: 10:15 am CST</p>	<p><b>First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)</b>  <b>Pastor:</b> Loren Strait                  Eighth &amp; Arcade • 899-5233  <b>Sunday:</b> Worship Service: 10:30 am  <b>Sunday School:</b> 9:15 a.m.  <b>Activities:</b> Junior High &amp; High School Youth Groups, Adult Bible Study, Choir, Men's and Women's Groups, Devotions Study, Monthly Fellowship  <b>Special Notice:</b> Handicap Accessible, Hearing Assistance Equipment and Infant and Toddler Nurseries Available</p>	<p><b>Goodland Bible Church</b>                  109 Willow Road • 899-6400  <b>Pastor:</b> Chad DeJong  <b>Sunday:</b> Sunday School: 9:45 am                  Morning Worship: 11 am                  Evening Worship: 6 pm  <b>Wednesday:</b> AWANA (Winter) and prayer: 7 p.m.</p>
<p><b>Church of the Nazarene</b>  <b>Pastor:</b> Bob Willis                  Third &amp; Caldwell                  899-2080 or 899-3797  <b>Sunday:</b> Sunday School: 9:45 am                  Worship Service: 10:50 am                  Evening Service: 6 pm  <b>Wednesday:</b> Evening Service: 7 pm</p>	<p><b>First United Methodist Church</b>                  1116 Sherman                  899-3631  <b>Pastor:</b> Rev. Janet Hernandez  <b>Saturday:</b> Informal Worship: 5:30 pm  <b>Sunday:</b> Sunday School: 9:15 am                  Worship Service: 10:30 am</p>	<p><b>Grace Fellowship Church</b>                  104 E. Hwy 24 • 899-6423  <b>Pastor:</b> Bob Snyder •                  Residence: 890-0134  <b>Sunday:</b> Sunday School: 10 am                  Worship Service: 11 am                  Youth Group at Gattshall's at 5:30 pm                  Adult Bible Study 6 pm</p>
<p><b>First Baptist Church</b>  <b>Pastor:</b> John Meckling                  Fifth &amp; Center • 899-3450  <b>Sunday:</b> Sunday School: 9:15 am                  Morning Worship: 10:30 am                  Evening Worship: 6:30 pm  <b>Tuesday:</b> Mens' Prayer Group: 6:00 am  <b>Thursday:</b> Night Bible Study: 7:00 pm</p>	<p><b>St. Paul's Episcopal Church</b>                  13th &amp; Center                  Church 890-2115 or Rectory 890-6969  <b>Priest:</b> Father Hal Lycett  <b>Holy Eucharist:</b> 10:00 a.m. Sunday                  10:00 a.m. Thursday  <b>Morning Prayer:</b> 8:00 a.m. Wed. - Sun.                  For emergencies Wed. - Sun. 890-6969                  Sr. Warden for emergencies                  Mon. and Tues. 890-3320</p>	<p><b>Emmanuel Lutheran Church</b>                  13th &amp; Sherman • 890-6161  <b>Pastor:</b> Scott Grimshaw  <b>Sunday:</b> Christian education/fellowship:                  10:15 a.m.                  Worship Service: 9 am  <b>Wednesday:</b> Confirmation: 6 pm</p>
<p><b>Seventh Day Adventist Church</b>                  1160 Cattletrail  <b>Pastor:</b> Jim Martin  <b>Saturday:</b> Sabbath School: 9:30 am                  Worship Service: 11 am</p>	<p><b>Church of Christ</b>                  401 Caldwell                  899-6185  <b>Sunday:</b> Bible Study: 9:45 am                  Worship Service: 10:45 am  <b>Wednesday:</b> Bible Study: 7 pm</p>	<p><b>Short &amp; Son Trucking</b>                  Hwy. 24</p> <p><b>Good Samaritan Center</b>                  208 W. 2nd</p>

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