



## Choosing Your Friends

By Shannon Ford on May 10, 2024

**TODAY'S READING:** Psalm 119:41-72

The Word of God is mentioned in all but three of the 176 verses of Psalm 119. The message is clear. God has revealed Himself in scripture, and only in that revelation can one find forgiveness, life, and meaning. And as His followers, we are to love the Word of God, read it, meditate on it, and seek to obey it. If the Bible does not change our values, it will not change our lives.

Today, I want to focus on a verse in our passage that stands out and is worth discussing. The psalmist says that the Word of God pertains to our friendships. In Psalm 119:63 we read, *I am a friend to all who fear you, to all who follow your precepts.* God's Word should guide us in our choice of friends and associates. The most important test of our close friends should be their attitudes toward the Bible. Do they accept it? Do they receive the Word of God as truth? Do they fear God with a reverential awe and love for Him? We should not make close friendships with those who do not love the Lord, do not have faith in Jesus Christ and reject Jesus. These are the people we should pray for, share Christ with, and show them the love of Christ.

All of us enjoy having friends. We need them. God intended for His people to enjoy close friendships with other Christians. The believer should want to be with other believers. If we love God, we will love His people. If I am in a right relationship to God through His Word, I will be in a right relationship with people. My friends will be God's friends. God never intended us to exist in isolation. We were meant for each other. Friendships are investments of our time and other resources. Make them count for eternity. Choose your close friends carefully.

**PRAYER:** Lord, thank You for our close friends that are a blessing to us. We have many acquaintances but few real, close friends. Thank You for the godly friendships we have that enrich our lives and honor You. Amen.

**TOMORROW'S READING:** Weekend is for catch-up and review.

**MONDAY'S READING:** Psalm 119:73-104

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