

TALK IT OVER

TOXIC RELATIONSHIPS

DIG DEEPER

Class # 18

The people in your circle can be your greatest spiritual possession or they can be your worst spiritual curse. Surrounding yourself with the right people can lift you up, motivate, challenge, and equip you spiritually. However, if you're not careful and surround yourself with the wrong people, it can distract, poison, and even destroy your life and purpose.

Apostle Paul gives us wise advice in **1 Corinthians 15:33** "*Don't be fooled... bad company corrupts good character.*" Then in **2 Timothy 2:16-17**, he compares the effect of bad company on the soul with the spreading of a very invasive disease: gangrene.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Compare the character of the person in **1 Corinthians 15:33** with the one in **Philippians 1:11**. Which do you identify with?
2. Why do you think Paul warns us not to be fooled?
3. Why do most people struggle speaking up and establishing boundaries?



"Don't be fooled... bad company corrupts good character."

- 1 Corinthians 15:33 (NTV)

SIMPLICITY

A practical way of not allowing the toxicity of bad company to affect us, is establishing boundaries. A boundary keeps the bad out and the good in. Jesus established boundaries with the Pharisees, speaking to them only in parables. When one of his closest friends, Peter, tried to interfere with God's plan for his life, Jesus rebuked him (**Matthew 16:23**).

Two phrases you can use, that can help you preserve good character are: "*I will not allow you to treat me (or speak) that way,*" and the other is "*I will not go there with you.*" You will be surprised how people begin to respect you, just by setting healthy boundaries. And if they continue, then you will have to apply the second strategy: Cut off the relationship!

Think about who are the people who speak into your life, and you listen to. Are they the right people? Will they take you to the next level or bring you down? You may need to cut some relationships and find yourself new friends! In prayer, ask God to guide you in building a community of people around you, that will always push you to be all God called you to be!

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEXT STEPS COURSE
MEN OF INFLUENCE EVENT

June 6 (9am via Zoom or Live)
June 25 & 26