



**Why Can't We Be Friends?
April 30 & May 1, 2022**

Our deepest regrets often revolve around our closest friends.

Write the names of the 3 friends you hang out with the most:

Guardrails - Direct us and protect us.

If I hit a guardrail my car may be damaged, but not my life.

How to Build Relational Guardrails:

1 Samuel 18:1-4 (CEV)

“David and Saul finished talking, and soon David and Jonathan became best friends. Jonathan thought as much of David as he did of himself. From that time on, Saul kept David in his service and would not let David go back to his own family. Jonathan liked David so much that they promised to always be loyal friends. Jonathan took off the robe that he was wearing and gave it to David. He also gave him his military clothes, his sword, his bow and arrows, and his belt.”

1 Believe my friends will determine the quality and direction of my life.

Proverbs 13:20 (TPT)

“If you want to grow in wisdom, spend time with the wise. Walk with the wicked and you'll eventually become just like them.”

“Don't let my guard down!”

Proverbs 18:24 (NLT)

“There are ‘friends’ who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother.”

2 Unify only with friends that love God and pursue His purposes.

1 Samuel 16:7 (NLT)

“But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The LORD doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.’”

Proverbs 27:17 (TPT)

“It takes a grinding wheel to sharpen a blade, and so one person sharpens the character of another.”

Proverbs 27:6 (TPT)

“You can trust a friend who wounds you with his honesty, but your enemy's pretended flattery comes from insincerity.”

3 Ignore the friends who pressure me to compromise my character.

1 Samuel 20:30-34 (NLT)

“Saul boiled with rage at Jonathan. ‘You stupid son of a whore!’ he swore at him. ‘Do you think I don't know that you want him to be king in your place, shaming yourself and your mother? As long as that son of Jesse is alive, you'll never be king. Now go and get him so I can kill him!’ ‘But why should he be put to death?’ Jonathan asked his father. ‘What has he done?’ Then Saul hurled his spear at Jonathan, intending to kill him. So at last Jonathan realized that his father was really determined to kill David. Jonathan left the table in fierce anger and refused to eat on that second day of the festival, for he was crushed by his father's shameful behavior toward David.”

2 Corinthians 6:17 (MSG)

“So leave the corruption and compromise; leave it for good,’ says God. ‘Don't link up with those who will pollute you. I want you all for myself.’”

4 Limit being with friends who say, “You can come and not participate.”

James 1:14-16 (TPT)

“Instead it is each person's own desires and thoughts that drag them into evil and lure them away into darkness. Evil desires give birth to evil actions. And when sin is fully mature it can murder you! So my friends, don't be full by your own desires”

1 Corinthians 15:33 (TPT)

“So stop fooling yourself! Evil companions will corrupt good morals and character.”

5

Destroy friendships that are destroying the relationships I love most and filling my life with guilt and shame.

2 Samuel 12:6-7, 9 (NLT)

“He must repay four lambs to the poor man for the one he stole and for having no pity.’ Then Nathan said to David, ‘You are that man! The LORD, the God of Israel, says: I anointed you king of Israel and saved you from the power of Saul.’... ‘Why, then, have you despised the word of the LORD and done this horrible deed? For you have murdered Uriah the Hittite with the sword of the Ammonites and stolen his wife.’”

2 Samuel 12:13-14 (NLT)

“Then David confessed to Nathan, ‘I have sinned against the Lord.’ Nathan replied, ‘Yes, but the Lord has forgiven you and you won’t die for the sin. Nevertheless, because you’ve shown utter contempt for the word of the Lord by doing this your child will die.’”

Psalms 32:1-5 (NLT)

“Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight! Yes, what joy for those whose record the LORD has cleared of guilt, whose lives are lived in complete honesty! When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long. Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat. Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, ‘I will confess my rebellion to the LORD.’ And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone.”

Luke 7:35 (NLT)

“But wisdom is shown to be right by the lives of those who follow it.”



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