



[Proverbs 13:20](#)

(20) He who walks with wise *men* will be wise,
But the companion of fools will be destroyed.

New King James Version

We are admonished to bond with people who will encourage our better behaviors and characteristics. We eventually take on the characteristics of the people with whom we bond. We find numerous biblical cautions on this principle or law of bonding:

- » Can two walk together, unless they are agreed? ([Amos 3:3](#))
- » He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed. ([Proverbs 13:20](#))
- » Make no friendship with an angry man, and with a furious man do not go, lest you learn his ways and set a snare for your soul. ([Proverbs 22:24-25](#))

The world's psychology claims that friendship is enhanced by communication. Godly psychology stresses communication but with a slightly different emphasis. Encounter groups (products of well-meaning but misguided psychological principle) encourage, "Let it all hang out—givevent to your pent up feelings." One psychologist suggests that, if one genuinely feels like saying, "I hate you! I hate you!" he should just say it, if it is an honest feeling. However, consider God's instruction: "A fool vents all his feelings, but a wise man holds them back" ([Proverbs 29:11](#)).

God's psychology insists that friends build up instead of tear down. The Scripture gives ample instructions for godly communication between friends: "Open rebuke is better than [love](#) carefully concealed. Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful" ([Proverbs 27:5-6](#)).

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for Proverbs 13:20 (<http://www.theberean.org>)

A friend ought to be able both to offer and receive encouragement and loving criticism. As we in our local memberships now number in the teens rather than the hundreds, our faults become more transparent to one another. We need to come to appreciate both the encouragement and the candid criticism from our friends, as well as their [kindness](#) and generosity.

A friend should never commiserate with or encourage his friend's bitter attitude or rebellion against any of God's laws, statutes, or principles but should encourage him to change course:

» Ointment and perfume delight the heart, and the sweetness of a man's friend does so by hearty counsel. [A true friend both gives and accepts good counsel.] ([Proverbs 27:9](#))

» As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend. ([Proverbs 27:17](#))

Godly communication between friends involves sharing common interests, giving and accepting advice, giving and accepting criticism, and giving and accepting encouragement. A healthy relationship requires both giving and receiving, with the primary emphasis on the way of give.

— David F. Maas

To learn more, see:

[Godly Friendship: A Priceless Commodity](#)

Related Topics:

[Communication](#)

[Communication among Friends](#)

[Communication, Godly](#)

[Criticism](#)

[Encouragement](#)

[Encouragement from Friends](#)

[Friend of Christ](#)

[Friend of God](#)

[Friendship](#)

[Friendship, Godly](#)

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for Proverbs 13:20 (<http://www.theberean.org>)

[Godly Communication](#)
[Iron Sharpens Iron](#)

Commentary copyright © 1992-2016 [Church of the Great God](#)
New King James Version copyright © 1982 by [Thomas Nelson, Inc.](#)