

**DUMB AND DUMBER:
THIS IS YOUR WAY OUT
FRIENDSHIP & INFLUENCE**



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PROVERBS 1:8-19

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DON'T TRADE YOUR INTEGRITY FOR SHORTCUTS.

"[Friendship] One soul dwelling in two bodies." – Aristotle¹

"The perfect accord upon all questions, religious and social, together with mutual goodwill and affection...There is nothing in this world more valuable than friendship." – Cicero²

"A friend is long sought, hardly found, and with difficulty kept. Let those who will, allow gold to dazzle them and be borne along in splendor, their very baggage glittering with gold and silver. Love is not to be purchased, and affection has no price. The friendship that can cease has never been real." – St. Jerome

"Friendship between earthly friends consists much in affection; but yet those strong exercises of affection, that actually carry them through fire and water for each other, are the highest evidences of true friendship" – Jonathan Edwards³

Proverbs 13:20

Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

Proverbs 18:24

A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Proverbs 17:17

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Proverbs 27:6

Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.

Proverbs 27:9

Oil and perfume make the heart glad, and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel.

Proverbs 27:14

Whoever blesses his neighbor with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, will be counted as cursing.

Proverbs 1:8-19

Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, ⁹ for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck. ¹⁰ My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent. ¹¹ If they say, "Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood; let us ambush the innocent without reason; ¹² like Sheol let us swallow them alive, and whole, like those who go down to the pit; ¹³ we shall find all precious goods, we shall fill our houses with plunder; ¹⁴ throw in your lot among us; we will all have one purse" –

Proverbs 1:8-19 (cont.)

¹⁵ my son, do not walk in the way with them; hold back your foot from their paths,
¹⁶ for their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood. ¹⁷ For in vain is a net
spread in the sight of any bird, ¹⁸ but these men lie in wait for their own blood; they
set an ambush for their own lives. ¹⁹ Such are the ways of everyone who is greedy for
unjust gain; it takes away the life of its possessors.

Q: What is the purpose of life?

A: If I don't know the answer to this question then why not take an offer to ride in the fast lane even if that ends in disaster? If the purpose of life is to know God and make Him known, then I have good reason to avoid distractions.

Features of fake friends...

- Suggest there's a better way than God's way – 1:10a

My son, if sinners entice you...

- Ignore their **conscience** – 1:11-12

If they say, "Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood; let us ambush the innocent without reason; ¹² like Sheol let us swallow them alive, and whole, like those who go down to the pit;

- Promise a big **payday** – 1:13-14

we shall find all precious goods, we shall fill our houses with plunder; ¹⁴ throw in your lot among us; we will all have one purse—

Wise counsel & fake friends

⇒ Don't hand over your **integrity** for unethical **shortcuts** that sound promising but end in disaster – 1:8-10

Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, ⁹ for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck. ¹⁰ My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent.

⇒ Be **gracious** to them but don't **participate** with them! – 1:15

my son, do not walk in the way with them; hold back your foot from their paths,

⇒ Why? Because they're walking into their own trap – 1:16-19

for their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood. ¹⁷ For in vain is a net spread in the sight of any bird, ¹⁸ but these men lie in wait for their own blood; they set an ambush for their own lives. ¹⁹ Such are the ways of everyone who is greedy for unjust gain; it takes away the life of its possessors.

⇒ Listen to your parents, older people, and godly colleagues who will tell you what you need to hear rather than what you want to hear.

¹ Carl J. Richard, *Twelve Greeks and Romans Who Changed the World* (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2003), 105.

² Cicero, W. Collins, trans. *Ancient Classics for English Readers: Chapter X Essays on 'Old Age' and 'Friendship'*, (Kindle Edition), 97, 98.

³ Jonathan Edwards, *The Works of Jonathan Edwards*, Volume 1 (Hendrickson: Peabody, 2005), 334.