

FAST Lesson 1B: Real Men Don't Just Go Along With the World - A New Network

John Kain, 2009

- I. The people we hang out with can be labeled as our “peers.” It’s natural to want to be accepted by your peers – to even think and act like they do. This is called “peer pressure.”
- II. Real men understand this, and therefore they are very careful about who they spend time with. Their best friends are people who seek after God. They encourage each other to do the right things.
- III. Ask yourself “Who are my friends?” They are the people who influence you. They are the people who you are most likely to share common values with.
- IV. Your closest friends should be fellow believers – people who love God and share your understanding of who he is. They will help you to see things that you are unable to perceive by yourself.
- V. We should seek to influence the other people in our network of relationships (family, co-workers, team members, etc.) to wake up and seek after God.
- VI. However, we should specifically avoid circumstances that link us to people who will influence us in negative ways. Behaviors such as smoking and underage drinking don’t automatically mean that people are evil – they may be unable to see the health issues and addiction issues involved in these things. So we need to evaluate each situation carefully. Ask yourself “Will they respond to my opinion? Can I model self-control and stay with them, while clearly showing that I don’t agree with such behaviors, or should I leave?” Often the wise choice is to leave, and look for other opportunities to share with them when they are better able to think clearly (if they are willing).

“Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.” (Psalm 1:1-2)

“Do not set foot on the path of the wicked or walk in the way of evil men. Avoid it, do not travel on it; turn from it and go on your way. For they cannot sleep till they do evil; **they are robbed of slumber till they make someone fall.**” (Proverbs 4:14-16)

“When a man is getting better he understands more and more clearly the evil that is still in him. When a man is getting worse he understands his own badness less and less...This is common sense, really. **You understand sleep when you are awake, not while you are sleeping.** You can see mistakes in arithmetic when your mind is working properly: while you are making them you cannot see them. You can understand the nature of drunkenness when you are sober, not when you are drunk. **Good people know about both good and evil: bad people do not know about either.**” C.S. Lewis, “Mere Christianity”