



In One Ear, Out The Other

Part 1 - "Acceptance Magnets"

Small Group Material

October 15th, 2017

Participant Guide

Bottom Line: *Your friends will determine the direction and quality of your life.*

Study Verses: *Proverbs 13:20, Ephesians 1:3-6, Proverbs 27:17, Ecclesiastes 4:9-12*

Insightful Quotes

"The people you surround yourself with influence your behaviors, so choose your friends wisely." -David Buettner

"The more we study engagement, we see time and time again that just being next to certain people actually aligns your brain with them. This means the people you hang out with actually have an impact on your engagement with reality beyond what you can explain. And one of the effects is you become alike." -Moran Cerf

"Associate yourself with people of good quality, for it is better to be alone than in bad company." -Booker T. Washington

Key Points

- *We are acceptance magnets.*
- *Acceptance paves the way to influence.*
- *Determine the direction of the influence.*
- *It is better to be alone than surrounded by those of negative influence.*
- *Godly wisdom loses its potency and power when it's not put into practice.*

ENCOUNTER

- What pieces of wisdom did your parents give you that went “in one ear and out the other”? Why did you ignore their words? How did failing to listen to their advice lead to regret?
- Fill in the blank: _____ will determine the direction and quality of your life. What makes you answer in the way that you do? Over time how has your answer changed or stayed the same?
- We are acceptance magnets. How did this truth play out in your life growing up? Why do we naturally gravitate towards those that accept us? Do you believe the pull of the acceptance magnets lessens, grows stronger or stays the same as we get older?

FORMATION

- Read Proverbs 13:20. On Sunday, Brett Eddy made the case that our friends determine the direction and quality of our life. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not? Why is it easy for this wisdom found in Proverbs to go “in one ear and out the other”?
- Read Ephesians 1:3-6. How does knowing we are fully accepted and loved by Christ impact the drive to seek acceptance in our relationships with others?
- Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 and Proverbs 27:17. Why is a supportive community needed if we want to reflect Christ’s heart in our lives?

EXPRESSION

- Read the quotes from David Buettner, Booker T. Washington, and Moran Cerf. How are your relationships and friendships shaping the person you are becoming?
- Determine the direction of the influence. Are there relationships that are having a negative impact on your life, your integrity, and your pursuit of Christ? What needs to change with these relationships?
- Determine the direction of the influence. Are there relationships that are having a positive impact on your life, your integrity, and your pursuit of Christ? How can you further develop these connection points?
- If acceptance paves the way to influence, who needs to know that you accept them and are rooting for them? How can taking this posture deepen the influence you have with this individual?