

The Influence of Friends

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up. Again, if two lie together, they are warm; but how can one be warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

--Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Introduction

Made for Community

Friendships: Tenuous, Emerging, Default

Primary Social Groups: Family, Church, Neighborhood, School, Work, Activities
Friends (proximal and virtual)

Parental Influence as it relates to the Influence of Friends

Encouraging by deed more than word

Parenting Styles: Authoritarian, Authoritative, Permissive, Neglectful/Rejecting

Influence of Friends is inevitable. Primacy is ours to lose.

Concluding Thought

“Feelings do not like to be hidden within themselves, and the youth wishes to share them. Then he has need of a person who might share his feelings, that is, a friend and companion. This need is good and noble, but it can also be dangerous! To the one to whom you and trust your feelings you give a certain authority over yourself.”

--Theophan the Recluse

Resources:

Raising them Right: A Saints Advice on Raising Children, by St. Theophan the Recluse, Ancient Faith Publishing

How Your Friends Change Your Habits

(<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20190520-how-your-friends-change-your-habits---for-better-and-worse>)

Adolescent Peer Culture--Parents' Role

(<https://education.stateuniversity.com/pages/1737/Adolescent-Peer-Culture-PARENTS-ROLE.html>)