

"I don't need or want anybody's help."

This is foolishness.

Proverbs 18:1

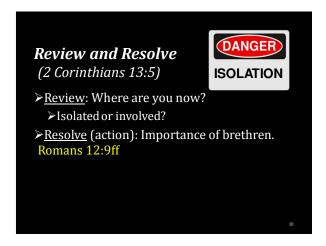
The separatist follows his own desires.

Proverbs 14:12; 28:26 (fool)

He separates himself from the congregation where he would find strength, encouragement, comfort, guidance and protection

From fellow Christians. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (Galatians 6:2)

From the guidance of God's truth. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and light unto my path." (Psalms 119:105)





-Our counselors say a good deal about us.

>Foolish counselors.
Proverbs 1:10-19

>Rehoboam. 1 Kings 12:6-8, 12-14

>Wise counselors. Proverbs 11:14 (15:22; 24:5-6)

>Counsel of God's word. Psalms 119:24 (17-24)





-Friends will either hurt us or help us. 1 Corinthians 15:33



- ➤ Superficial and worldly?
  - ➤ Fair-weathered and self-serving. Proverbs 19:6; cf. Luke 15:16
  - ➤ These entice you to sin. Proverbs 1:10-11

15

-Friends will either hurt us or help us. 1 Corinthians 15:33



- ► Genuine and godly?
  - ➤ Share a common faith, values and goals. 2 Peter 1:1 "like precious faith."
  - ➤ Tells you what you <u>need</u> to hear! Proverbs 27:6, 9
  - ➤ You become better and stronger spiritually because of them.

    Proverbs 27:17

Review and Resolve (2 Corinthians 13:5)



- <u>Review</u>: Are your friends hindering you or helping you be faithful and grow in Christ?
- ➤ Resolve (action): Be Christ's friend and choose your friends wisely! John 15:14

17



-Prayer suggests a healthy relationship with God. Hebrews 4:16



- **≻**Christian: Did you think to pray?
- 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- **≻**Christian: Have you stopped praying?
  - ► Not depending on God
  - ► Not trusting in God
  - ➤ Not being thankful to God
  - ➤ You are exposed to the devil, sin and death!

19

## Review and Resolve (2 Corinthians 13:5)



- ➤ <u>Review</u>: What place does prayer have in your life?
- ➤ Resolve (action): Repent and start praying.

  Mark 1:35 Jesus got up early to pray.
  - ► Model Prayer. Matthew 6:9ff
  - ▶ Pray for others and be thankful. Philippians 4:6

20



- **≻**Isolation
- **➤**Worldly counselors
- >Friendships
- **≻**Failure to pray

(DANGER)

- ➤ We must see the signs that warn us of spiritual catastrophe!
- ➤ Be steadfast and abound in the work of the Lord, 1 Corinthians 15:58

22