

Introduction: More is really “caught than taught.”

- It's true when we are young.

- It's true when we grow up.

- Timeless Axiom: We become most like those we admire and those with whom we interact most frequently.

Practice: Pursue GREAT People!

[He who walks with the wise grows wise], but a companion of fools suffers harm.

Proverbs 13:20 (NIV)

I. Why pursue great people?

A. God's Word is _____ about the company we keep.

Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV)

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

Hebrews 13:7 (NIV)

¹⁵Even if you had ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. ¹⁶Therefore, I urge you to imitate me.

1 Corinthians 4:15-16 (NIV)

As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.

Proverbs 27:17 (NIV)

B. Our baggage and backgrounds _____ it!

- No one had a perfect parent.
- Wounds and deficits are normal.
- We must choose to deal with the damage constructively.
- God uses people to heal and restore our lives.

Reference: *The Wounded Healer* by Henry Nouwen

II. How do you pursue great people?

A. Start by looking in the rear view mirror. What four or five people have most positively impacted your life?

1.

2.

3.

4.

B. Now, look out the windshield. We all need three kinds of people in our lives.

1. A _____ to "learn from."

2. A _____ to "share with."

3. A _____ to "help grow."

III. Get started without getting discouraged.

A _____ to heed.

- For Timothy looking for Paul.
- For Paul looking for Timothy.

A _____ to consider.

“Role Players”

- Father figure
- Sponsor
- Cheerleader
- Seer
- Hero
- Expert
- Counselor
- Confidant

An _____ plan to follow.

- Pray earnestly
- Take initiative
- Start in your relational network
- Ask for help
- Persevere
- Do it by proxy (tapes, books, phone, etc.)
- Make time in your schedule; you'll never have enough time