Assalam Alikum my brothers and sisters in Islam,

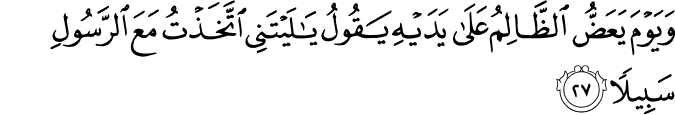
As humans, we are social beings. In other words, we can never live alone in this world. We all need friends; someone to support us through hard times, share moments of excitement and joy with, and simply someone to talk to from day to day. As Muslims , our perfect religion Islam , not only outlines the rules of friendship, but provides us with the best example, the prophet Muhammad (S) to show us through actions, how to apply these rules.

It is inevitable that those who surround us impact us. As a Muslim, our criteria for choosing a friend should not base on popularity, money, or looks, but rather on how dedicated of a Muslim that person is. Being close to a God-fearing person, will lead one to be influenced in positive manner, bringing them closer to Allah (SWT). These are the people that will lead you to Jannah. On the contrary, a person who does not fear Allah will lead you to do haram things, and make you forget Allah (SWT). This is precisely why the prophet (S) cautioned and ordered us to stay away from bad company, in the clearest of ways when he mentioned:

"المرء على دين خليله فلينظر أحدكم من يخالل"

**“A person is upon the religion of his close friend, so beware whom you befriend.” [Abu Daawood and At-Tirmithi]**

Imagine being raised on the Day of Judgment, having the same fate as your impious, non-Muslim “friend”. What a calamity that would be! The Quran highlights the regret of those who sought out bad companionship in this world in Surat Al-Furqan when Allah (SWT) says:



And the Day the wrongdoer will bite on his hands [in regret] he will say, "Oh, I wish I had taken with the Messenger a way.

25:28

Oh, woe to me! I wish I had not taken that one as a friend.

In summary, if anything or anyone will hinder our relationship with Allah, or take us away from Allah, we are obligated to stay away from it. It really is as simple as that.

Inshallah we have all learned the magnitude of something as simple as finding good companionship.

May Allah forgive us all and enter us into Jannah!

Wasalam Alikum wa ramatuallahe wa barakatu

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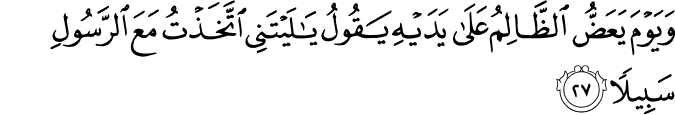
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“عليه وسلم: "المرء على دين خليله فلينظر أحدكم من يخالل قال رسول الله صلى الله

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The Prophet Muhammad (S) clarified in depth the difference between good and bad company in an authentic hadith when he said: “Good company and bad company are like a perfume seller and blacksmith. The perfume-seller might give you some perfume as a gift, or you might buy some from him, or at least you might smell its fragrance. As for the blacksmith, he might burn your clothes, and at the very least you will breathe in the fumes of the furnace.”

At the end, we will all return to Allah on the Day of Judgment, every person will be more than worried about himself. People who truly love you dearly like your parents will not be able to do anything to help you. Let along Non-Muslim “friends”. In Surat Al-Zukhruf, Allah (SWT) says:

43:67

Close friends, that Day, will be enemies to each other, except for the righteous

In summary, if anything or anyone will hinder our relationship with Allah, or take us away from Allah, we are obligated to stay away from it. It really is as simple as that.

Although three minutes is not enough time to explain such a topic, I hope that inshallah we have all learned the magnitude of something as simple as finding good companionship.

May Allah forgive us all and enter us into Jannah!

Wasalam Alikum wa ramatuallahe wa barakatu