

In the game of Baseball, they call second base as being in "scoring position" meaning that the next base hit can get that runner all the way home. How do you get in a scoring position for a Home Run Life? You can't do it unless you've mastered relationships and discovered how to win with others.

There are only two things on this world that are going to last for all eternity: God's _____ and _____. That means you have to love people and _____ things, not love things and use people.

Learning how to win with people is a skill that we all must develop. John D. Rockefeller said, "I will pay more for the ability to deal with people than any other ability under the sun." The most important ability you can develop in this life would be people skills. Every part of your life is built on relationships. They will either make you or break you. Proverbs gives us some great insight as to how we can live with three classifications of people: **friends, foes, and fools**. How you relate to those three types of people will determine how far you will go in the Home Run Life.

Be _____ To _____

QUOTE: "The older I get, the more I realize there are very few things in life more valuable and more rare than true friendship." The fact of the matter is, none of us have very many true friends. How can we make real and genuine friendships? Solomon gives us some keys to doing that. **The first key to finding real friends is...**

1. _____ a **Friend** - Proverbs 18:24 says, "A man who has friends must himself be friendly." The best way to have a friend is to be a friend. I personally believe that a stranger is just a friend you haven't met yet! "I went out to find a friend, but could not find one there. I went out to be a friend and friends were everywhere." The best way to find a good friend is to be a good friend.

Dale Carnegie, who wrote a best selling book entitled, *How to Win Friends and Influence People* said "You can make more friends in two months by becoming interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you." His book includes a myriad of the best practices to make yourself into a more friendly person.

- _____ **contact** - when you talk to people, don't look down or around... look them in the eye. Matthew 6:22, "The eye is the lamp of the body..."
- **A _____ face** - it takes seventy-two muscles to frown and only fourteen to smile. A smile encourages conversation. The expression you wear on your face is more important than the clothes you wear on your back. Job 29:24, "When I smiled at them...the light of my face was precious to them."
- **Call people by their _____** - strangers are just that, strange, but a friend is known. 3 John 14 admonishes us to "greet the friends by name." Remember that a person's name is to that person the sweetest and most important sound in any language.
- **Talk to others about their favorite topic** - _____. (See Phil. 2:3) The bottom line is people are not interested in you. They are not interested in me. They are interested in themselves morning, noon, and after dinner. If you want to make the **maximum impact**, become genuinely interested in other people. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 9:22, "I try to find common ground with everyone so that I might bring them to Christ."
- **Find an occasion to give a word of encouragement, compliment or show an act of _____**. People need hope - every person has some form/type of insecurity. View every person you see as if they have the words "Encourage Me" stamped to their foreheads. Relationships grow fast and strong in an atmosphere of affirmation. Practice the "30 Second Rule" of speaking something positive about a person within the first 30 seconds of meeting them.

2. _____ a **Friend**.
The rule of thumb on friendship -- **Be friendly to _____, but don't have everyone as a _____.** "The righteous should choose his friends carefully, for the way of the wicked leads them astray." (Proverbs 12:26)

WORD STUDY: The word "choose" in the Hebrew language is the word "tur" and it refers to a man searching out land. What that means is the wise person always explores and evaluates prospective friendships, selects them prudently and enters into them carefully. George Washington once said,

"Associate with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation; for it is better to be alone than in bad company." When you start hanging out with the wrong people, you will start listening to the wrong advice, you will start imitating the wrong example and you will wind up doing the wrong thing.

3. _____ a friend -- Once you find a friend, you guard that relationship like you would guard the gold at Fort Knox. The two super-glue qualities that can permanently cement any friendship: _____ and _____. Proverbs 27:6 says, "*Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.*" A real friend will "wound" you by telling you the truth, but he will tell you the truth nonetheless. 95% replied in a recent survey that trust/honesty was the number one thing they wanted in a relationship. The second quality is loyalty. Solomon said, "*There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.*" (Proverbs 18:24). WORD STUDY: The word "stick" refers to how the skin sticks to the bone and that is how close one friend should stick to another. A true friend will always be your *defense attorney* before he becomes your *judge*. If you ever want to find out who your friends really are, just make a mistake! That's why Solomon said in Proverbs 27:10, "*Do not forsake your own friend or your father's friends.*"

Be _____ With _____

If you have any convictions or principles, if you have any courage to stand up for what is right, or if you are willing to take a stand for Jesus Christ – you are going to make foes just as well as you make friends. The issue is not "Am I going to make enemies?" The issue is "How am I going to respond to them?" There are two pieces of advice that Solomon gave to his kids on how to handle people that don't like you or people who oppose you.

1. **Face them with _____.** The people who have hurt you deeply are not your problem; they are God's problem. Read Proverbs 24:17-20. Never wish bad things on your enemies. We are to leave revenge to God. He can handle your foes and punish them far better than you ever could. According to this passage in Proverbs 24, when you try to take matters into your own hands, you not only dam up God's anger, but you hold back His vengeance (vs. 17-18).

2. **Kill them with _____.** It is not enough just to leave your enemies alone. When you get a chance you need to demonstrate the love of Christ love to them. Proverbs 25:21-22, "*If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink; for you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you.*"

What does it mean to "heap burning coals on this head"? In ancient days, homes were heated and meals were fixed on a small portable stove (like an outside barbecue grill). If a person was running low on hot coals, he would need to replenish his supply. He would carry a container on his head and as he would pass beneath second-story windows, thoughtful people would place a burning coal into the container on his head. "Heaping burning coals on someone's head", came to be a popular expression for a spontaneous and courteous act one person would voluntarily do for another."

Be _____ With _____

There are three Hebrew words that are used to describe the "fool" in Proverbs.

- One term [*kesil*] refers to a _____-headed person who thinks he needs no advice (thinks he knows it all).
- The second term [*'ewil*] refers to a _____-headed person who refuses even to listen to counsel.
- The third term [*nabal*] refers to an _____-headed person who carries out his lack of wisdom, because he won't listen to advice and lives a foolish lifestyle.

He may be intellectually brilliant, financially successful, and socially admired – but he is **morally** and **spiritually** bankrupt. The reason why the wrong crowd is the wrong crowd is because they refuse to listen to the advice of the right crowd. Proverbs 10:21, "*The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools die for lack of understanding.*" Charles Spurgeon said, "A man is known by the company he shuns, as well as the company he keeps."

How should we relate to the fools of this world? It is really easy. "*Leave the presence of a fool, or you will not discern words of knowledge.*" Proverbs 14:7.

Show me your _____, and I will show you your _____.

Your character will become a composite of the _____ friends you spend the most time with.

All you have to do is be in close proximity to people and before long their character qualities will start sticking to you.

In the game of Baseball, they call second base as being in "scoring position" meaning that the next base hit can get that runner all the way home. How do you get in a scoring position for a Home Run Life? You can't do it unless you've mastered relationships and discovered how to win with others.

There are only two things on this world that are going to last for all eternity: God's Word and people. That means you have to love people and use things, not love things and use people.

Learning how to win with people is a skill that we all must develop. John D. Rockefeller said, "I will pay more for the ability to deal with people than any other ability under the sun." The most important ability you can develop in this life would be people skills. Every part of your life is built on relationships. They will either make you or break you. Proverbs gives us some great insight as to how we can live with three classifications of people: **friends, foes, and fools**. How you relate to those three types of people will determine how far you will go in the Home Run Life.

Be Committed To Friends

QUOTE: "The older I get, the more I realize there are very few things in life more valuable and more rare than true friendship." The fact of the matter is, none of us have very many true friends. How can we make real and genuine friendships? Solomon gives us some keys to doing that. **The first key to finding real friends is...**

1. Being a Friend - Proverbs 18:24 says, "A man who has friends must himself be friendly." The best way to have a friend is to be a friend. I personally believe that a stranger is just a friend you haven't met yet! "I went out to find a friend, but could not find one there. I went out to be a friend and friends were everywhere." The best way to find a good friend is to be a good friend.

Dale Carnegie, who wrote a best selling book entitled, *How to Win Friends and Influence People* said "You can make more friends in two months by becoming interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you." His book includes a myriad of the best practices to make yourself into a more friendly person.

- Eye contact - when you talk to people, don't look down or around... look them in the eye. Matthew 6:22, "The eye is the lamp of the body..."
- A smiling face - it takes seventy-two muscles to frown and only fourteen to smile. A smile encourages conversation. The expression you wear on your face is more important than the clothes you wear on your back. Job 29:24, "When I smiled at them...the light of my face was precious to them."
- Call people by their name - strangers are just that, strange, but a friend is known. 3 John 14 admonishes us to "greet the friends by name." Remember that a person's name is to that person the sweetest and most important sound in any language.
- Talk to others about their favorite topic - themselves. (See Phil. 2:3) The bottom line is people are not interested in you. They are not interested in me. They are interested in themselves morning, noon, and after dinner. If you want to make the **maximum impact**, become genuinely interested in other people. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 9:22, "I try to find common ground with everyone so that I might bring them to Christ."
- Find an occasion to give a word of encouragement, compliment or show an act of kindness. People need hope - every person has some form/type of insecurity. View every person you see as if they have the words "Encourage Me" stamped to their foreheads. Relationships grow fast and strong in an atmosphere of affirmation. Practice the "30 Second Rule" of speaking something positive about a person within the first 30 seconds of meeting them.

2. Finding a Friend.

The rule of thumb on friendship -- Be friendly to everyone, but don't have everyone as a friend. "The righteous should choose his friends carefully, for the way of the wicked leads them astray." (Proverbs 12:26)

WORD STUDY: The word "choose" in the Hebrew language is the word "tur" and it refers to a man searching out land. What that means is the wise person always explores and evaluates prospective friendships, selects them prudently and enters into them carefully. George Washington once said,

"Associate with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation; for it is better to be alone than in bad company." When you start hanging out with the wrong people, you will start listening to the wrong advice, you will start imitating the wrong example and you will wind up doing the wrong thing.

3. Keeping a friend -- Once you find a friend, you guard that relationship like you would guard the gold at Fort Knox. The two super-glué qualities that can permanently cement any friendship: honesty and loyalty. Proverbs 27:6 says, "*Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.*" A real friend will "wound" you by telling you the truth, but he will tell you the truth nonetheless. 95% replied in a recent survey that trust/honesty was the number one thing they wanted in a relationship. The second quality is loyalty. Solomon said, "*There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.*" (Proverbs 18:24). WORD STUDY: The word "stick" refers to how the skin sticks to the bone and that is how close one friend should stick to another. A true friend will always be your *defense attorney* before he becomes your *judge*. If you ever want to find out who your friends really are, just make a mistake! That's why Solomon said in Proverbs 27:10, "*Do not forsake your own friend or your father's friends.*"

Be Compassionate With Foes

If you have any convictions or principles, if you have any courage to stand up for what is right, or if you are willing to take a stand for Jesus Christ – you are going to make foes just as well as you make friends. The issue is not "Am I going to make enemies?" The issue is "How am I going to respond to them?" There are two pieces of advice that Solomon gave to his kids on how to handle people that don't like you or people who oppose you.

1. Face them with forgiveness. The people who have hurt you deeply are not your problem; they are God's problem. Read Proverbs 24:17-20. Never wish bad things on your enemies. We are to leave revenge to God. He can handle your foes and punish them far better than you ever could. According to this passage in Proverbs 24, when you try to take matters into your own hands, you not only dam up God's anger, but you hold back His vengeance (vs. 17-18).

2. Kill them with kindness. It is not enough just to leave your enemies alone. When you get a chance you need to demonstrate the love of Christ love to them. Proverbs 25:21-22, "*If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink; for you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you.*"

What does it mean to "heap burning coals on this head"? In ancient days, homes were heated and meals were fixed on a small portable stove (like an outside barbecue grill). If a person was running low on hot coals, he would need to replenish his supply. He would carry a container on his head and as he would pass beneath second-story windows, thoughtful people would place a burning coal into the container on his head. "Heaping burning coals on someone's head", came to be a popular expression for a spontaneous and courteous act one person would voluntarily do for another."

Be Cautious With Fools

There are three Hebrew words that are used to describe the "fool" in Proverbs.

- One term [*kesil*] refers to a hard-headed person who thinks he needs no advice (thinks he knows it all).
- The second term [*'ewil*] refers to a thick-headed person who refuses even to listen to counsel.
- The third term [*nabal*] refers to an empty-headed person who carries out his lack of wisdom, because he won't listen to advice and lives a foolish lifestyle.

He may be intellectually brilliant, financially successful, and socially admired – but he is **morally** and **spiritually** bankrupt. The reason why the wrong crowd is the wrong crowd is because they refuse to listen to the advice of the right crowd. Proverbs 10:21, "*The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools die for lack of understanding.*" Charles Spurgeon said, "A man is known by the company he shuns, as well as the company he keeps."

How should we relate to the fools of this world? It is really easy. "*Leave the presence of a fool, or you will not discern words of knowledge.*" Proverbs 14:7.

Show me your friends, and I will show you your future.

Your character will become a composite of the five friends you spend the most time with. All you have to do is be in close proximity to people and before long their character qualities will start sticking to you.