

### ~ASSOCIATION (464)

[Hebrew, *ra-`ah'* have dealings with, Greek, *ho-mi-li'a* noun associations, verb *ho-mi-le'o*, converse ]

- The apostle Paul employed the Greek noun *ho-mi-li'a* when warning Christians about the danger of bad associations.
- Do not be misled! Bad **associations** spoil useful habits. (**1 Corinthians 15:33**)
- This Greek word is related to the verb *ho-mi-le'o*, meaning **converse**.
- He now went upstairs and began the meal and took food, and after **conversing** for quite a while, until daybreak, he at length departed. (**Acts of Apostles 20:11**)
- It denotes **association** or intercourse with another, usually through **speech** but sometimes through **sexual relations**. The Greek **Septuagint** used this word to translate the Hebrew for **persuasiveness** in
- She has misled him by the abundance of her **persuasiveness**. By the smoothness of her lips she seduces him. (**Proverbs 7:21**)
- And for the **marriage due** in;
- If he should take another wife for himself, her sustenance, her clothing and her **marriage due** are not to be diminished. (**Exodus 21:10**)
- Those who desire God's approval **choose** as their **companions** **persons who are devoted to righteousness and truth**.
- So, flee from the desires incidental to youth, but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace, **along with those who call upon the Lord out of a clean heart**. (**2 Timothy 2:22**)
- They also stop **associating** [literally, mixing themselves up] socially with members of the congregation **whose way of life has led to official censure of their disorderly conduct**. While continuing to manifest love toward such ones, they make it clear that they do not approve of their disorderly conduct.

- Now we are giving you orders, brothers, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, **to withdraw from every brother walking disorderly** and not according to the tradition you received from us. (2 Thessalonians 3:6)
- For you yourselves know the way you ought to imitate us, **because we did not behave disorderly among you** (2 Thessalonians 3:7)
- Nor did we eat food from anyone free. To the contrary, by labor and toil night and day we were working so as not to impose an expensive burden upon any one of you. (2 Thessalonians 3:8)
- Not that we do not have authority, but in order, that we might offer ourselves as an example to you to imitate us. (2 Thessalonians 3:9)
- In fact, also, when we were with you, we used to give you this order; **If anyone does not want to work, neither let him eat.** (2 Thessalonians 3:10)
- For we hear certain one's are walking disorderly among you, not working at all but meddling with what does not concern them. (2 Thessalonians 3:11)
- To such persons we give the order and exhortation in the Lord Jesus Christ that by working with quietness they should eat food they themselves earn. (2 Thessalonians 3:12)
- For your part, brothers, do not give up in doing right. (2 Thessalonians 3:13)
- But if anyone is **not obedient** to our word through this letter, **keep this one marked, stop associating** with him, that he may become ashamed. (2 Thessalonians 3:14)
- And yet do not be considering him as an enemy, but **continue admonishing him as a brother.** (2 Thessalonians 3:15)
- Whereas good **associates** can be **a real aid in one's continuing to walk in harmony with divine wisdom**, there is no denying the damaging consequences of bad **association**. The inspired proverb states:

- He that is walking with wise persons will become wise, but he that is having dealings with the stupid one's will fare badly. (**Proverbs 13:20**)
- Do not have **companionship** with anyone given to anger, and with a man having fits of rage you must not enter in. (**Proverbs 22:24**)
- That you may not get **familiar** with his paths and certainly take a snare for your soul. (**Proverbs 22:25**)
- An understanding son is observing the Law, but one having **companionship** with gluttons humiliates his father. (**Proverbs 28:7**)
- A man that is loving wisdom makes his father rejoice, but he that is having **companionship** with prostitutes destroys valuable things. (**Proverbs 29:3**)
- The **Hebrew** word *ra-`ah*, translated have dealings with in,
- He that is walking with wise persons will become wise, but he that is **having dealings** with the stupid one's will fare badly.. (**Proverbs 13:20**)
- Is also rendered **associate with** and is related to the **Hebrew** word *re'a`*, meaning fellowman, companion.
- And Samson's wife came to belong to a groomsman of his who had **associated** with him. (**Judges 14:20**)
- You must not take vengeance nor have a grudge against the sons of your people, and you must love your fellow as yourself. I am Yehowah. (**Leviticus 19:18**)
- He has not slandered with his tongue. To his **companion** he has done nothing bad, and no reproach has he taken up against his **intimate acquaintance**. (**Psalms 15:3**)
- That unwholesome **companions** are indeed hurtful to one's welfare is evident from many Scriptural examples. Jacob's daughter Dinah unwisely chose Canaanite girls as her associates, and this led to her being violated by Shechem, the son of a Hivite chieftain.

- Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, used to go out **to see the daughters of the land.** (**Genesis 34:1**)
- And Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, a chieftain of the land, got to see her and then **took her and lay down with her and violated her.** (**Genesis 34:2**)
- **David's son Amnon listened to the bad counsel of his companion Jehonadab and raped his own half sister Tamar. Thus he incurred the hatred of Absalom, her full brother, who later arranged to have him murdered.**
- Now Amnon had a companion whose name was Jehonadab, the son of Shimeah, David's brother, and Jehonadab was a very wise man. (**2 Samuel 13:3**)
- So he said to him; Why are you, the son of the king, so downcast as this, morning by morning? Will you not tell me? At this Amnon said to him; With Tamar the sister of Absalom my brother I am in love. (**2 Samuel 13:4**)
- Upon that Jehonadab said to him; Lie down on your bed and play sick. And your father will certainly come to see you, and you must say to him; Please, let Tamar my sister come in and give me bread as a patient, and she will have to make the bread of consolation under my eyes in order, that I may see it, and I shall have to eat from her hand. (**2 Samuel 13:5**)
- Accordingly Amnon lay down and played sick, and so the king came in to see him. Then Amnon said to the king; Please, let Tamar my sister come in and bake two heart-shaped cakes under my eyes, that I may take bread as a patient from her hand. (**2 Samuel 13:6**)
- At that David sent to Tamar at the house, saying; Go, please, to the house of Amnon your brother and make the bread of consolation for him. (**2 Samuel 13:7**)
- So Tamar went to the house of Amnon her brother while he was lying down. Then she took the flour dough and kneaded it and made the cakes under his eyes and cooked the heart-shaped cakes. (**2 Samuel 13:8**)
- Finally she took the deep pan and poured it out before him, but

- Amnon refused to eat and said; Have everybody go out from me! Then everybody went out from him. (2 Samuel 13:9)**
- **Amnon now said to Tamar; Bring the bread of consolation to the interior room, that I may take it as a patient from your hand. So Tamar took the heart-shaped cakes that she had made and brought them in to Amnon her brother in the interior room. (2 Samuel 13:10)**
  - **When she came near to him for him to eat, he at once grabbed hold of her and said to her; Come, lie down with me, my sister. (2 Samuel 13:11)**
  - **However, she said to him; No, my brother! Do not humiliate me, for it is not usual to do that way in Israel. Do not do this disgraceful folly. (2 Samuel 13:12)**
  - **And I, where shall I cause my reproach to go? And you, you will become like one of the senseless men in Israel. And now speak, please, to the king, for he will not withhold me from you. (2 Samuel 13:13)**
  - **And he did not consent to listen to her voice, but used strength superior to hers and humiliated her and lay down with her. (2 Samuel 13:14)**
  - **And Amnon began hating her with a very great hatred, because the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her, so that Amnon said to her; Get up, go away! (2 Samuel 13:15)**
  - **At this she said to him; No, my brother, for this badness in sending me away is greater than the other that you have done with me! And he did not consent to listen to her. (2 Samuel 13:16)**
  - **With that he called his attendant who waited upon him and said, Send this person away from me, please, to the outside, and lock the door behind her. (2 Samuel 13:17)**
  - **Now upon her there was a striped robe, for that was the way the daughters of the king, the virgins, used to dress with sleeveless coats. So his waiter proceeded to lead her clear outside, and he locked the door behind her. (2 Samuel 13:18)**

- Then Tamar placed ashes upon her head, and the striped robe that was upon her she ripped apart, and she kept her hands put upon her head and went walking away, crying out as she walked. (2 Samuel 13:19)
- At this Absalom her brother said to her; Was it Amnon your brother that happened to be with you? And now, my sister, keep silent. He is your brother. Do not set your heart on this matter. And Tamar began to dwell, while being kept from **association** with others, at the house of Absalom her brother. (2 Samuel 13:20)
- And King David himself heard about all these things, and he became very angry. (2 Samuel 13:21)
- And Absalom did not speak with Amnon either bad or good, for Absalom hated Amnon over the fact that he had humiliated Tamar his sister. (2 Samuel 13:22)
- And it turned out after two full years that Absalom came to have sheepshearers at Baal-hazor, which is close by Ephraim, and Absalom proceeded to invite all the sons of the king. (2 Samuel 13:23)
- So Absalom came in to the king and said; Here, now, your servant has sheepshearers! Let the king go, please, and also his servants, with your servant. (2 Samuel 13:24)
- But the king said to Absalom; No, my son! Do not let all of us go, please, that we may not be a burden upon you. Although he kept urging him, he did not consent to go but blessed him. (2 Samuel 13:25)
- Finally Absalom said; If not you, let Amnon my brother go with us, please. At this the king said to him; Why should he go with you? (2 Samuel 13:26)
- And Absalom began to urge him, so that he sent Amnon and all the sons of the king with him. (2 Samuel 13:27)
- Then Absalom commanded his attendants, saying; See, please, that just as soon as Amnon's heart is in a merry mood with wine, and I shall certainly say to you, Strike down Amnon! you must

- then put him to death. Do not be afraid. Have not I myself commanded you? Be strong and prove yourselves to be valiant men. (**2 Samuel 13:28**)
- And Absalom's attendants proceeded to do to Amnon just as Absalom had commanded, and all the other sons of the king began to rise up and mount each one his mule and take to flight. (**2 Samuel 13:29**)
  - Contrary to Yehowah's commands, the Israelites began **associating** with the Canaanites, formed **marriage alliances** with them, and **adopted their degraded form of worship**, resulting in Yehowah's disfavor and abandonment.
  - And you must form no **marriage alliance** with them. Your daughter you must not give to his son, and his daughter you must not take for your son. (**Deuteronomy 7:3**)
  - For he will turn your son from following me, and they will **certainly serve other gods**, and Yehowah's anger will indeed blaze against you, and he will certainly annihilate you in a hurry. (**Deuteronomy 7:4**)
  - And the sons of Israel dwelt in among the Canaanites, the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. (**Judges 3:5**)
  - And they proceeded to take their daughters as wives for themselves, and their own daughters they gave to their sons, and they took up serving their gods. (**Judges 3:6**)
  - So the sons of Israel did what was bad in Yehowah's eyes, and they were forgetful of Yehowah their God and went serving the Baals and the sacred poles. (**Judges 3:7**)
  - At this Yehowah's anger blazed against Israel, so that he sold them into the hand of Cushan-rishathaim the king of Mesopotamia, and the sons of Israel continued to serve Cushan-rishathaim eight years. (**Judges 3:8**)
  - Even Solomon turned from worship of Yehowah when he took worshipers of false gods as wives.
  - Was it not because of these that Solomon the king of Israel

sinned? And among the many nations there proved to be no king like him, and loved of his God he happened to be, so that God constituted him king over all Israel. Even him the **foreign wives** caused to sin. (**Nehemiah 13:26**)

- It was the **influence** of Baal-worshipping Jezebel that made Ahab worse than all the Israelite kings prior to his time.
- Without exception no one has proved to be like Ahab, who sold himself to do what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah, whom **Jezebel his wife egged on**. (**1 Kings 21:25**)
- Close **association** with the royal house of Ahab nearly cost godly Jehoshaphat his life, and the **marriage alliance** that he had formed with Ahab later almost destroyed the royal house of David.
- And Jehoshaphat came to have riches and glory in abundance, but he **formed a marriage alliance with Ahab**. (**2 Chronicles 18:1**)
- So years later he went down to Ahab at Samaria, and Ahab proceeded to sacrifice sheep and cattle in abundance for him and for the people that were with him. And he began to allure him to go up against Ramoth-gilead. (**2 Chronicles 18:2**)
- And Ahab the king of Israel went on to say to Jehoshaphat the king of Judah; Will you go with me to Ramoth-gilead? At this he said to him; I am the same as you are, and my people are like your people and with you in the war. (**2 Chronicles 18:3**)
- The king of Israel now said to Jehoshaphat; There will be a disguising and entering into the battle for me, but you, for your part, put on your garments. Accordingly the king of Israel disguised himself, after which they entered into the battle. (**2 Chronicles 18:29**)
- As for the king of Syria, he had commanded the chiefs of the chariots that were his, saying; You must fight, neither with the small nor with the great, but with the king of Israel alone. (**2 Chronicles 18:30**)
- And it came about that, as soon as the chiefs of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, they, for their part, said to themselves; It is the king of Israel. So they turned around against him to fight, and Jehoshaphat began to cry for aid, and Yehowah himself helped



him, and God at once allured them away from him. (**2 Chronicles 18:31**)

- As regards Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah, she saw that her son had died. So she rose up and destroyed all the royal offspring of the house of Judah. (**2 Chronicles 22:10**)
- However, Jehoshabeath the daughter of the king took Jehoash the son of Ahaziah and stole him away from among the sons of the king that were to be put to death, and put him and his nursing woman in the inner room for the couches. And Jehoshabeath the daughter of King Jehoram, the wife of Jehoiada the priest, for she herself happened to be the sister of Ahaziah, kept him concealed because of Athaliah, and she did not put him to death. (**2 Chronicles 22:11**)
- The united body of true Christians, though composed of small groups, congregations, or physically isolated individuals, constitutes an **association of brothers**, or a **brotherhood**, designated by the **Greek** expression *a-del-pho'tes*.
- Honor men of all sorts, have love for the **whole association of brothers**, be in fear of God, have honor for the king. (**1 Peter 2:17**)
- But take your stand against him, solid in the faith, knowing that the same things in the way of sufferings are being accomplished in the **entire association of your brothers** in the world. (**1 Peter 5:9**)
- To remain a part of that **brotherhood**, true Christians avoid all **association** with any from their midst who become **promoters of false, divisive teachings**.
- Now I exhort you, brothers, to keep your eye on those who cause divisions and occasions for stumbling contrary to the teaching that you have learned, and **avoid them**. (**Romans 16:17**)
- For men of that sort are slaves, not of our Lord Christ, but of their own bellies, and **by smooth talk and complimentary speech they seduce the hearts of guileless ones**. (**Romans 16:18**)
- The Christian apostle John directed fellow believers never to accept such a **false teacher** into their homes or to greet him, which

would give him **an opening for presenting his twisted, corrupt doctrine.** Greeting such a person would have **indicated a measure of approval** and made one a **sharer** in **his wicked works.**

- If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, never receive him into your homes or say a greeting to him. (**2 John 1:10**)
- For he that says a greeting to him is a sharer in his wicked works. (**2 John 1:11**)
- Despite the overwhelming evidence regarding the certainty of the resurrection from the dead, the apostle Paul knew that **association** with those who had **rejected this Christian teaching** would be destructive to faith. That is why he wrote: **Do not be misled. Bad associations spoil useful habits.**
- Now if Christ is being preached that he has been raised up from the dead, how is it some among you say there is no resurrection of the dead? (**1 Corinthians 15:12**)
- If, indeed, there is no resurrection of the dead, neither has Christ been raised up. (**1 Corinthians 15:13**)
- But if Christ has not been raised up, our preaching is certainly in vain, and our faith is in vain. (**1 Corinthians 15:14**)
- Moreover, we are also found false witnesses of God, because we have borne witness against God that he raised up the Christ, but whom he did not raise up if the dead are really not to be raised up. (**1 Corinthians 15:15**)
- For if the dead are not to be raised up, neither has Christ been raised up. (**1 Corinthians 15:16**)
- Further, if Christ has not been raised up, your faith is useless; You are yet in your sins. (**1 Corinthians 15:17**)
- In fact, also, those who fell asleep in death in union with Christ perished. (**1 Corinthians 15:18**)
- If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all men most to be pitied. (**1 Corinthians 15:19**)

- However, now Christ has been raised up from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep in death. (**1 Corinthians 15:20**)
- For since death is through a man, resurrection of the dead is also through a man. (**1 Corinthians 15:21**)
- For just as in Adam all are dying, so also in the Christ all will be made alive. (**1 Corinthians 15:22**)
- Do not be misled! **Bad** associations **spoil useful habits**. (**1 Corinthians 15:33**)

**See Also APOSTASY**