**The Imitation of Christ by Thomas A. Kempis**

**BOOK TWO:** THE INTERIOR LIFE

**Chapter 2 Part 2:** Humility

**Quote:**

"It is often good for us to have others know our faults and rebuke them, for it gives us greater humility. When a man humbles himself because of his faults, he easily placates those about him and readily appeases those who are angry with him."

**Concept and Scripture:**

Finding godly friends

1 Corinthians 15:33

Do not be misled: “[Bad company corrupts good character](https://biblereasons.com/bad-company/).”

Proverbs 12:26

The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

**Discussion:**

What role do friends perform in a person’s character development?

How do we find friends with common beliefs rather than common interests?

**Concept and Scripture:**

Trusting godly friends with our faults

 Proverbs 27:6

You can trust what your friend says, even when it hurts. But your enemies want to hurt you, even when they act nice.

**Discussion:**

Why is authenticity so important amongst friends?

How can we develop a spirit of authenticity with our friends?

**Concept and Scripture:**

Humbling ourselves as a result of others knowing our faults

Proverbs 22:24-25

Do not be a friend of one who has a bad temper, and never keep company with a hothead, or you will learn his ways and set a trap for yourself.

1 Corinthians 5:11

Now, what I meant was that you should not associate with people who call themselves brothers or sisters in the Christian faith but live in sexual sin, are greedy, worship false gods, use abusive language, get drunk, or are dishonest. Don’t eat with such people.

**Discussion:**

Why do sexually perverse, greedy, phony, abusive, drunk, dishonest hotheaded people make bad friends?

**Concept and Scripture:**

Being strengthened for spiritual warfare as a result of the humility gained by others knowing our faults

John 15:14-16

You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because the slave does not understand what his master is doing. But I have called you friends, because I have revealed to you everything I heard from my Father. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that remains, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you.

**Discussion:**

How do dominating people enslave others?

How does friendship result in open communication?