

# 10 People God Warns You Not to Support — But You Keep Holding On

By System Import | Sermon | March 13, 2026

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Compassion is one of the highest virtues of the Christian faith. We are called to love, to give, and to help. But there is a dangerous trap that many sincere believers fall into: Misplaced Mercy. We often confuse "loving" someone with "enabling" them. We confuse "patience" with "participating in their sin." We think that if we just support them a little longer, give them a little more money, or listen to their drama one more time, they will change.

But the Bible—especially the book of Proverbs—is surprisingly harsh when it comes to who we should align ourselves with. Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, warns us repeatedly that if you support the wrong person, you don't just lose your resources; you lose your peace, your reputation, and eventually, you become like them.

God does not call you to be the Savior of the world; that job is taken. He calls you to be a steward. And stewarding your life means knowing who to invest in and who to walk away from. Sometimes, the most spiritual thing you can do is close your wallet and close the door.

Today, we are going to look at the 10 Types of People Scripture explicitly warns you not to support. We are going to look at the "Fool," the "Sluggard," the "Mocker," and the "Divider." It is time to inspect your circle. If you are holding onto someone God is trying to cut loose, you are sinking your own ship.

### Number 1: The Fool (The Moral Rebel)

When the Bible speaks of a "fool" (Hebrew: \*Kesil\*), it is not talking about someone with a low IQ. It is talking about someone with a low moral compass. The fool is someone who knows the right thing to do but refuses to do it. They despise wisdom. They make the same mistakes over and over again and expect different results.

Proverbs 26:8 says, **"Like tying a stone in a sling is the giving of honor to a fool."**

If you put a stone in a sling, it becomes a weapon. If you tie it down, it becomes useless and dangerous to the user. Supporting a fool—giving them money, influence, or a platform—is dangerous.

Why you must stop:

\* Proverbs 13:20: **"The companion of fools suffers harm."**

\* You cannot love a fool into wisdom. They only learn through consequences (pain). If you keep paying their bail, paying their rent, or cleaning up their mess, you are interrupting God's discipline

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in their life. You are acting as a buffer between them and the lesson they need to learn. Stop cushioning the fall for the fool.

## Number 2: The Sluggard (The Professional Victim)

The Sluggard is the person who refuses to take responsibility for their own survival. They always have an excuse. "There is a lion in the streets!" (Proverbs 26:13). They have a reason why they can't work, why they can't come to church, why they can't help. They feel entitled to your labor.

2 Thessalonians 3:10 is blunt: **"If a man will not work, he shall not eat."**

Notice it says "will not," not "cannot." There is a difference between someone in a crisis and someone in a cycle of laziness.

Why you must stop:

- \* By supporting the Sluggard, you are funding their paralysis.
- \* You are teaching them that they don't need to rely on God or themselves because they can rely on you.
- \* This relationship is parasitic. They will drain you dry and then blame you when you finally say "no." God warns you to step back so hunger can become their motivation.

## Number 3: The Mocker (The Arrogant Skeptic)

The Mocker (or Scoffer) is the person who rolls their eyes at authority, correction, or spiritual things. They are smarter than everyone else. If you try to correct them, they hate you. If you try to share the Gospel, they make a joke of it.

Proverbs 9:8 warns: **"Do not rebuke mockers or they will hate you; rebuke the wise and they will love you."**

We often spend years trying to "win over" the Mocker. We think, "If I just explain it better, they will understand."

Why you must stop:

- \* Proverbs 22:10: **"Drive out the mocker, and out goes strife; quarrels and insults are ended."**
- \* The Mocker brings a toxic atmosphere. As long as you give them a seat at your table, there will be strife. You cannot support someone who fundamentally disrespects the things of God. Supporting them affirms their arrogance.

## Number 4: The Angry Man (The Hot-Head)

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This is the person with no emotional control. They explode at the waitress. They scream in traffic. They hold grudges. They are a ticking time bomb. You find yourself "walking on eggshells" around them, trying to keep them calm.

Proverbs 22:24-25 gives a command, not a suggestion: *"Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered, or you may learn their ways and get yourself ensnared."*

Why you must stop:

\* Anger is contagious. If you hang around a hot-head, you will start to become irritable and defensive.

\* Furthermore, an angry person is a "snare" (a trap). Their outbursts will eventually get *\*you\** into trouble—a lawsuit, a fight, or a destroyed reputation. God says: Stay away.

Number 5: The Talebearer (The Chronic Gossip)

This is the person who comes to you with "secret information" about others. They whisper. They say, "I shouldn't tell you this, but..." They thrive on the misfortunes of others. They pretend to be concerned ("We need to pray for her..."), but they are actually feeding on the drama.

Proverbs 20:19 says, *"A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid anyone who talks too much."*

Why you must stop:

\* The Rule of Reciprocity: If they will gossip *\*to\** you, they will gossip *\*about\** you. You are not the exception; you are just next on the list.

\* Supporting a gossip makes you an accomplice to their slander. By listening, you are providing the oxygen for their fire. Cut it off.

Number 6: The Divider (The Stirrer of Strife)

This person is dangerous because they often operate within the church. They sow discord among brothers (Proverbs 6:19—something God hates). They are always "concerned" about leadership. They plant seeds of doubt: "Did you hear what the Pastor said? Do you really think that was right?" They create factions.

Titus 3:10 gives strict instructions: *"Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them."*

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Why you must stop:

- \* Division is a cancer. You cannot "manage" a tumor; you have to remove it.
- \* If you support a Divider (by listening to them or sympathizing with their rebellion), you are aiding in the destruction of unity. God commands a strict quarantine of divisive people to protect the body.

Number 7: The False Brother (The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing)

This is the hardest one. This is the person who claims to be a Christian but lives in unrepentant, open sin. They call themselves a "brother" or "sister," but they are sexually immoral, greedy, or an idolater.

1 Corinthians 5:11 says, *"But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people."*

Why you must stop:

- \* This is not about judging outsiders; it is about judging *\*insiders\**. If you treat them like everything is fine, you are validating their hypocrisy.
- \* You are telling the world, "This behavior is what Christianity looks like." Paul says we must withdraw fellowship to shock them into repentance. Continuing to support them comforts them in their sin.

Number 8: The Leech (The Greedy)

Proverbs 30:15 says, *"The leech has two daughters. 'Give! Give!' they cry."*

The Leech is a person who is never satisfied. No matter how much you do for them, it is never enough. They view you as a resource, not a friend. They manipulate you with guilt: "If you really loved me, you would help me."

Why you must stop:

- \* You cannot fill a bucket with a hole in it.
- \* The Leech does not need more resources; they need a change of heart. As long as you keep giving, they will keep taking. You will burn out, and they will simply move on to the next victim. God wants you to be a river, not a reservoir, but He does not want you to be drained dry by a parasite.

Number 9: The Treacherous (The Unfaithful)

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Proverbs 25:19 says, *"Like a broken tooth or a lame foot is reliance on the unfaithful in a time of trouble."*

Have you ever tried to chew on a broken tooth? Sharp pain. Have you tried to run on a broken foot? Collapse.

The Treacherous person is someone who has proven they cannot keep a promise. They flake out. They betray trust. They leave you hanging when you need them most.

Why you must stop:

\* You are setting yourself up for pain. To rely on someone who has a history of unfaithfulness is to ignore the evidence.

\* Forgive them? Yes. Trust them again? No. Trust is earned. God warns you not to build your house on the sand of an unfaithful person's word.

Number 10: The Unteachable (The Stiff-Necked)

Finally, there is the person who refuses all correction. You have warned them. Pastors have warned them. Consequences have warned them. But they stiffen their neck and refuse to turn.

Proverbs 29:1 is a terrifying verse: *"Whoever remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed—without remedy."*

Why you must stop:

\* When a person reaches the "stiff-necked" stage, they are nearing the edge of a cliff. If you keep standing between them and the edge, you might get pulled over with them.

\* There comes a time when you must hand them over to God. You have to realize that your voice is no longer effective. Stepping away is the final warning. It is saying, "I love you too much to watch you destroy yourself."

Conclusion

Supporting the wrong people is not love; it is a lack of discernment.

Love seeks the *\*highest good\** of the other person. Sometimes, the highest good is a warm hug. But sometimes, the highest good is a closed door.

If you have recognized someone on this list—a Fool, a Mocker, a Sluggard, a Leech—ask God for the courage to withdraw your support.

\* Stop giving the money.

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- \* Stop listening to the gossip.
- \* Stop defending their bad behavior.

When you remove your hands, you make room for God's hands. And God's hands can do what yours never could: transform the heart through the power of consequence and grace.

"He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm." (Proverbs 13:20)