

# Friends and Their Influence

Friends. Best Friends. Acquaintances. The friends you hang out with. The friends you tell everything to. The friends that have known you since before you got married. The friends you just met. His friends. Her friends. Our friends.

Some are supportive, some are not. Some know what they are talking about, some are just talking. Some like your spouse, some do not. Some are functional...some are not.

It's time to talk about the friends that are causing your marriage to be more difficult. It is critical to identify who is and who is not supportive of your efforts to make your marriage work.

Friends can be difficult to talk about and yet, when they have an influence in your marriage it becomes more important than ever to be able to talk about them.

*Some friends come into your life for a reason,  
others come only for a season.  
~Anonymous*

\*\*A note of caution having best friends of the opposite sex after marriage can greatly complicate your marriage. It's hard for your spouse to know their place when they are competing with another man or another woman to be your primary relationship.

1. Who, in my circle of friends, is supportive of our marriage?

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2. What have they done or said to demonstrate this?

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3. If I was being honest with myself (and my spouse) the following friends do NOT have my marriage's best interest at heart:

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4. What have they done or said to demonstrate this?

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5. Question for your spouse: Is there anyone in my circle of friends that you have difficulties with? Why?

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6. Question for your spouse: What boundaries do we need to have in place for our friendships?

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7. Who are the married friends that we spend time with?

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8. Who do we need to spend more time with in terms of mentoring and/or support?

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*Friendship is not about people who remain true to your face, it's about people who remain true behind your back.*

*~Anonymous*