

# [GUARDRAILS]



## *Guardrails #2 :: Why Can't We Be Friends {Andy Stanley}*

### INTRODUCTION

Friendships are powerful things. They're great, but dangerous. You drop your guard with your friends. You become less careful. And as a result, you're easily influenced, drawn toward the acceptance you find. Because of this vulnerability, it would be smart to develop some guardrails. It's not an easy thing—but it might end up saving you from future pain.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Apart from your current family members, who are your closest friends? Your *amigos*? Your *posse*?
2. Were your parents protective of who you spent time with as a child? As you look back, are you glad they were protective?
3. Think about some of your greatest regrets. Were you in the company of friends or enemies?
4. Read Proverbs 13:20. How has this proverb been demonstrated in your life?
5. While the idea of *friendship* is a great thing, what type of guardrails do you need to construct in this area of your life?
6. What is one tangible, intentional way you can practice “walking with the wise”?

### MOVING FORWARD

Do any of these sound familiar when it comes to your friendships?

1. *It dawns on you that your core group isn't moving in the direction you want your life to be moving.*
2. *You catch yourself pretending to be someone other than who you really are.*
3. *You feel pressure to compromise.*
4. *You hear yourself saying, “I'll go, but I won't participate.”*
5. *You hope the people you care about most don't find out where you've been or whom you've been with.*

Constructing the necessary guardrails in a relationship/friendship is painful. But being intentional about walking with the wise protects you and puts you in a position to help others later on.

### CHANGING YOUR MIND

*Walk with the wise and become wise,  
for a companion of fools suffers harm.*

**Proverbs 13:20**