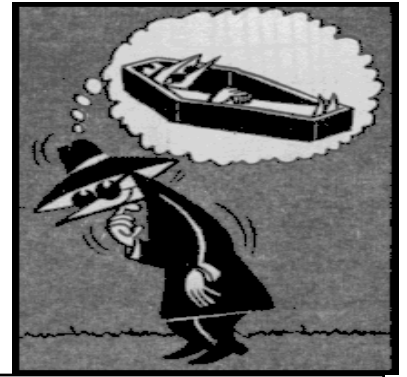


FRIENDSHIP KILLERS



"You're so stupid...oh, I was just kidding"

Tearing Down vs. Building Up

For some strange reason, people today can spew poison (James 3:7-10) from their mouths and inflict emotional wounds on those who are close to them and then excuse themselves from blame with just five little words:

_____ Proverbs 26:18-19

Many times, our little jokes have much more than humor behind them. Many times we are saying what we *really* think. As Christians we have learned that we are supposed to _____ each other, so when we are bitter and want to take a shot at our brother we mix a little _____ in with the _____; thinking that if we are just joking around that it is okay.

In Matthew 12:36, Jesus says that it is not OKAY! In fact, he said that not only are our little wisecracks friendship killers, but that each of us will have to _____ our reasons for _____ one of His children's self-esteem.

Who will you answer for tearing down?

1. _____
2. _____

I've been bashing my friends pretty bad! What can I do to repair the damage???

FRIENDSHIP REPAIR

1. Repair with _____: Go to that person and _____ what you have been doing. Matthew 5:23-24
Tell them that their friendship is _____ to you.

2. Encourage with _____. Ephesians 4:29. There are many ways of doing this:
 - a. Short notes: thank them for being your friend.
 - b. Pass on _____
 - c. Build them up in _____.

3. Be a Good _____.
 - a. Be slow to jump in with a _____
 - b. Be slow to give _____.

