**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. June 19, 2022**

**Friends; Choose Them Wisely!**

Proverbs 18:24

**Key Truth:** We need friends who will help us become better disciples by encouraging and challenging us to walk with Christ.

**Why Friendships Are Needed:**

1. As humans we are relational beings. **Genesis 2:18**

2. We cannot accomplish nor become everything God has

for us without friends.

A. Friends are relational assets and not liabilities.

**Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, Proverbs 27:17**

3. God‘s blessings tend to come to us in friendships.

**What To Look For In A Friend:**

1. Honorable Character – **Proverbs 13:20, 1 Corinthians 15:33**

2. Unconditional Love - **Proverbs 17:17**

3. Unbridled Honesty and Grace- **Proverbs 27:6,**

A. They love you enough to tell you the truth because

they want God’s best for you. **2 Samuel 12:1-14**

4. Unwavering Loyalty - **Proverbs 18:24**

A. Be wary of people that demand unquestioned loyalty.

5. Able to keep a conversation in confidence - **Proverbs 16:28**

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Praise God for the blessings of friends He has place in your life. Thank God for His friendship to you and for Christ’s example of how to love other people and consider their needs above your own.

**Food For Thought**

How many close friends do you have: 0-2, 3-5, 6 or more?

In your experience, what are the greatest contributing factors involved in forming deep friendships?

Read Philippians 2:3-4: Can a person be a friend to another person and not live out Philippians 2:3-4? Explain.

Since Proverbs has 31 chapters, a practical way to do this is to daily read the chapter that corresponds to the day of the month and consider these questions:

What applies to me today?

Where have I seen this in others?

Where have I experienced this?

Options To Maximize Your Reading Of Proverbs:

* Pick a Time - If we want to make something happen, we usually need to set a time when it will actually happen. Consider your options.
* Mark it Up - Have a pen in hand to jot down notes and underline those verses that catch your attention. It will be encouraging to look back at what you wrote after you’ve done this over time.
* Write Down Your Thoughts - Get a notebook and write down anytime you have a response to one of the three questions above.

As you do this from day to day, know that you will be storing up for yourself insight on how to handle life as God would want you to, as well as helping others to live out the wisdom and love of God in your life.