

Values, “Choosing Friends”

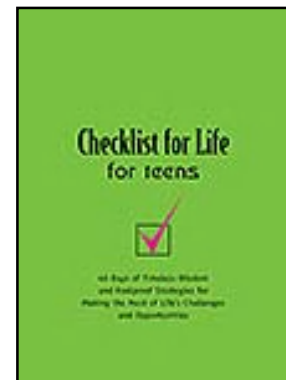
How important is our choices in friends. Remember that even friends are subject to failures; and therefore, we cannot always count on a friend to be faithful in their friendship – **we cannot give a friend our absolute trust and faith...**

I have experienced the loss of the intended, *best of friends* and, I must tell you, it is very hurtful. If I had understood then what I know now, the relationship – and friendship – would have been under different understanding, terms and so forth.

At the advice of this book, choose your friends based on positive values; at the same time, understand that friendship is bound by love and respect – not by conditions and fear.

From this book, the following additional advice or guidance:

Place a high priority on maintaining your close friendships; be the one who *reaches out* and encourages and always gives the benefit of the doubt when misunderstandings threaten the relationship. When you go the extra mile for your friends, **you prove yourself to be the kind of friend** others want to click with.



Homework:

Please try to do these:

- Maintain your values (what you believe) even if your friends trash them
- Be a positive influence
- Remain Committed to friendships...despite the circumstances
- Be a kind of friend that you would like others to be (toward you)
- Be the one to *reach out* and encourage others
- Go the extra mile...

Things to Do:

- ✓ Ask God to show you how to be a better friend
- ✓ Choose a close friend to be a prayer and accountability partner
- ✓ Read about the good friendship between David and Jonathon (1 Samuel 18-20)
- ✓ Send an encouraging e-mail, text message, or letter to a friend who is going through a difficult or *rough* time
- ✓ Be thankful for what friends do for you

Choose your friends carefully...prayerfully...and gratefully