

## MY NEXT STEP TODAY IS:

- I will memorize **Proverbs 12:26 (NIV)**  
I will accept Christ for the first time
- I will join the New Life church family
- I will identify who is on what friend level
- I will ask God for discernment when selecting friends
- I will attend the next four sermons in the series either online or in person

Join us next week as we continue our new sermon series:  
**The Relationship Code:  
Unlocking the Secrets of Healthy Relationships**

Join us on our **Prayer Line** by calling  
(712)832-7030. Enter access code, 1919#. The prayer line is  
**open daily from 6am-7am CST.**

### 2 Online Live Streaming Services Available:

Visit us at [www.newlifeestl.org](http://www.newlifeestl.org), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)  
or [YouTube](#) Channel (New Life Community Church  
East St. Louis)

**Saturday**  
6:00pm

**Sunday**  
11:00am

Please scan the QR codes below to access the connection card and giving link:



Connection Card



Giving Code

## The Relationship Code: Unlocking the Secrets of Healthy Relationships

**Kendall Granger, Lead Pastor**

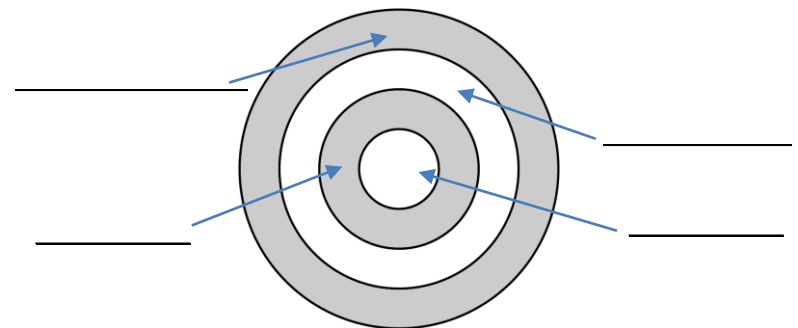
Part 1 of 5, [pastor@newlifeestl.com](mailto:pastor@newlifeestl.com)

*The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."* **Genesis 2:18 (NIV)**

### TYPES OF FRIENDSHIPS

- **CASUAL FRIENDS CAN BE THE RESULT OF MY**  
\_\_\_\_\_
- **BUT CLOSE FRIENDS SHOULD BE THE RESULT OF MY**  
\_\_\_\_\_

Fact: The closer I am to a person, the greater they influence my life. So, I need to CHOOSE my closest friends wisely.



**MEMORY VERSE:** *"The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray."*  
**Proverbs 12:26 (NIV)**

## WHO NOT TO CHOOSE AS A CLOSE FRIEND

God says some people you should avoid: (a partial list)

### 1. PEOPLE WHO LIKE TO \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Any fool can start arguments; the honorable thing is to stay out of them."*

**Proverbs 20:3 (GNB)**

### 2. PEOPLE WHO \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Stay away from gossips— they tell everything."* **Proverbs 20:19 (CEV)**

### 3. PEOPLE WHO \_\_\_\_\_ OTHERS.

*"Flattery is a trap; evil men are caught in it, but good men stay away and sing for joy."* **Proverbs 29:5 (LB)**

### 4. PEOPLE WHO CAN'T CONTROL THEIR \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Don't befriend angry people or associate with hot-tempered people, or you will learn to be like them and endanger your soul."*

**Proverbs 22:24–25 (NLT)**

### 5. PEOPLE WHO \_\_\_\_\_ OR SHOPLIFT.

*"We will get all sorts of valuable things and fill our houses with plunder; cast lots with us; we will all share the loot— my son, do not go along with them, do not set foot on their paths."* **Proverbs 1:13-15 (NIV)**

### 6. BELIEVERS WHO SIN \_\_\_\_\_.

*"When I wrote to you before, I told you not to associate with people who indulge in sexual sin. But I wasn't talking about unbelievers who indulge in sexual sin, or are greedy, or cheat people, or worship idols. You would have to leave this world to avoid people like that. I meant that you are not to associate with anyone who claims to be a believer yet indulges in sexual sin, or is greedy, or worships idols, or is abusive, or is a drunkard, or cheats people. Don't even eat with such people."* **1 Corinthians 5:9-11 (NLT)**

## QUALITIES TO LOOK FOR IN YOUR CORE FRIENDS

### 1. CHOOSE FRIENDS WHO ENCOURAGE ME \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up as you are already doing."* **1 Thessalonians 5:11 (HCSB)**

### 2. CHOOSE FRIENDS WHO CONSISTENTLY SUPPORT ME

\_\_\_\_\_!

*"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity."*

**Proverbs 17:17 (NIV)**

### 3. CHOOSE FRIENDS WHO CHALLENGE ME TO \_\_\_\_\_!

*"Become wise by walking with the wise; hang out with fools and watch your life fall to pieces."* **Proverbs 13:20 (MSG)**

## HOW TO BE A FRIEND

### 1. I MUST \_\_\_\_\_ THE TIME.

*"A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: And there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother."* **Proverbs 18:24 (KJV 1900)**

*"Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others."* **Philippians 2:4 (NCV)**

### 2. I MUST \_\_\_\_\_ THEIR TRUST.

*"Many a man proclaims his own loyalty, but who can find a trustworthy man?"* **Proverbs 20:6 (HCSB)**

*"An honest answer is a sign of true friendship."* **Proverbs 24:26 (GNB)**

### 3. I MUST LISTEN WITH \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry."*

**James 1:19 (NLT)**

### 4. I MUST ACCEPT THEIR \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Accept each other just as Christ has accepted you; then God will be glorified."* **Romans 15:7 (NLT)**

*"Love prospers when a fault is forgiven, but dwelling on it separates close friends."* **Proverbs 17:9 (NLT)**

### 5. I MUST \_\_\_\_\_ WINS AND \_\_\_\_\_ LOSSES.

*"Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn."*

**Romans 12:15 (NIV)**

I WILL DEVELOP HEALTHY \_\_\_\_\_.