Engine Room - July 2023

 **Friendship** Proverbs 17:17; 19:4; 27:5-6 & 9

**1. From God**

 **Friendship with God……with others**

**Q What could we do to cultivate deeper, more spiritual friendships ?**

**2 I Need a Friend**

**Proverbs 13:20**

20Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise,

   but the companion of fools will suffer harm**.**

**DISCUSS**

Q. How can we ensure the church really is a family, and no one feels isolated?

Q. What can we do if we find we have many companions but no friends ?

**3. True Friendship**

**Proverbs 19:4, 7**

4 Wealth brings many new friends, but a poor man is deserted by his friend.

7 All a poor man's brothers hate him; how much more do his friends go far

 from him!

2 Samuel 1 v 26 & 1 Samuel 20 (v.41-42) Q Am I a committed friend?

**DISCUSS**

Q. What steps could I take to prioritise friendships?

**4. Maintaining / strengthening Friendships**

Proverbs 27:10 Do not forsake your friend and your father's friend

ENSURE CLOSE & CONSTANT FRIENDSHIPS

Romans 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

Proverbs 29:5 A man who flatters his neighbour spreads a net for his feet.

Ask yourself:

who can raise tricky topics with me? ..areas where growth is needed?

Proverbs 27 v 5 & 6 Better is open rebuke than hidden love.

 Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.

Proverbs 27 v 9 Oil and perfume make the heart glad,

 and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel

**DISCUSS** Q What hinders openness in friendships ?

True Friendship is Christ-centred

Human friendship is limited - JESUS meets our deepest longings

John 15 v 13 – 15

**PRAY**

- Give thanks for Jesus’ friendship

- Ask for help to reflect his friendship

- Pray about our friendships with others