

SQUAD GOALS: Choosing Your Circle Wisely

1 Corinthians 15:33

Let me tell you something crazy about chameleons that's going to blow your mind! When you put two chameleons together, guess what happens? They start matching each other's colors! And some of you are in here right now knowing that's exactly what's happening in your life – you're matching whatever energy your squad is giving off!

The Friend Check

Let's get real uncomfortable for a minute. Pull out your phone. Look at your last five text messages. Look at your recent calls. Look at your snapchat best friends. Now ask yourself:

- Are they pulling you up or pulling you down?
- Are they pushing you toward your purpose or pushing you toward problems?
- Are they helping you stand out or helping you blend in?

It's time for a FRIEND CHECK!

The Circle Effect

Now watch this – Paul drops this truth bomb in **1 Corinthians 15:33: "Do not be deceived: Bad company corrupts good character."**

Translation for 2025: Your circle will make you or break you!

And some of y'all are:

- Changing colors for the wrong crowd
- Dimming your light to fit in
- Compromising your character to keep friends

The Squad Science

Let me show you something wild. Studies show you become like the five people you spend the most time with:

- They influence your decisions
- They shape your mindset
- They affect your future

But here's what's crazy – a chameleon doesn't just match its surroundings, it can also INFLUENCE its environment! You were made to be an influencer, not just influenced!

The Friend Filter

Write this down: **"YOUR CIRCLE SHOULD SHARPEN YOU, NOT SHAPE YOU!"**

It's time to put your friends through the filter:

1. The Direction Test

- Are they going where you're going?
- Do they support your faith journey?
- Do they challenge you to grow?

2. The Influence Test

- Who's changing who?
- Are you pulling them up or are they pulling you down?
- Are you standing firm or are you blending in?

3. The Character Test

- Do they make sin seem normal?
- Do they respect your boundaries?
- Do they strengthen your walk with God?

The Squad Setup

Now, let's talk about how to build a godly squad:

1. The Inner Circle

- People who pray for you
- People who push you toward purpose
- People who keep it real with you

2. The Outer Circle

- People you're influencing
- People you're witnessing to
- People you're praying for

3. The Boundary Circle

- People you love from a distance
- People you're kind to but not close to
- People you interact with but don't intimate with

The Light Strategy

Jesus said be light in darkness. But watch this – He never said become darkness to reach the dark! Here's how to influence without being influenced:

1. Stay Bright

- Know who you are
- Know what you believe
- Know where you're going

2. Stay Bold

- Don't apologize for your faith
- Don't compromise your values
- Don't dim your light

3. Stay Balanced

- Love people where they are
- Show grace while standing firm
- Be real about your own journey

The Friend Shift

Some of y'all need to make some changes:

1. The Elevation

- Some friends need to be closer
- Some need to be further
- Some need to be filtered

2. The Evaluation

- What conversations do you need to have?
- What boundaries do you need to set?
- What relationships do you need to reset?

3. The Evolution

- Who do you need to connect with?
- What community do you need to join?
- What friendships do you need to invest in?

The Squad Standards

Listen to me – your squad should:

- Make holiness look cool
- Make purpose look possible
- Make faith look real

The Friendship Formula

Here's what we're doing this week:

1. The Audit
 - Look at your close friends
 - Check your group chats
 - Examine your influences
2. The Adjustment
 - Set new boundaries
 - Have honest conversations
 - Make necessary changes
3. The Addition
 - Find godly community
 - Connect with purpose partners
 - Build meaningful friendships

The Bottom Line

Remember this: A chameleon changes based on its surroundings, but an eagle soars with its own kind! It's time to stop changing colors for the wrong crowd and start soaring with the right squad!

Because one day, you'll realize:

- Your friends determine your flight
- Your circle shapes your ceiling
- Your squad influences your success

It's time to level up your squad! It's time to choose your circle! It's time to be the influence!

Because here's what's real:

- Right friends = Right future
- Right circle = Right choices
- Right squad = Right success

Don't let the wrong circle make you a chameleon when God called you to be an eagle!