

**I. Introduction and review: The most famous friendship in the Bible.**

**II. Jonathan and David enter into intimate friendship. 18:1-4**

**A. Jonathan's soul was knit to David's. v. 1a**

1. Jonathan takes the initiative.
2. Why might this be an unlikely friendship?
3. What drew Jonathan to seek friendship with David?
4. They are valiant men of like faith, zeal and courage. 13:3 14:6ff 17:26,36,45,47
5. Their lives become bound up in one another. Gen. 44:30

**B. Jonathan loves David as himself. v. 1b,3b**

1. This passage along with others is used by some to assert that Jonathan and David had some kind of romantic or sexual relationship. II Sam. 1:26
2. This is a love of friendship, not romance. 16:21 18:16,22 I Ki. 5:1
3. David and Jonathan were godly married men who kept God's law. Lev. 20:13
4. Their love is one of intimate friendship.
5. They exemplify biblical love which is active and giving. I Jo. 3:18

**C. Jonathan and David make a covenant with one another. v. 3a 20:16-17 23:18**

1. We are not told the specific content of the covenant (agreement), but we can know much from their subsequent actions.
2. Jonathan defends David against Saul's false accusations. 19:1-6
3. Jonathan becomes an informer warning David about Saul's evil plans. 20:1ff
4. Jonathan pays a price for his loyalty to David. 20:30-34 22:8
5. Jonathan encourages David. 23:16-18
6. David honors Jonathan in death and cares for Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth. II Sam. 1:17ff 9:1:ff

**D. Jonathan gives David his royal attire. v. 4**

1. What is the significance of this act?
2. In ancient times clothing denoted status. Ex. 37:3 Gen. 41:41-42 Esther 6:8
3. It appears that Jonathan is relinquishing his royal status as crown prince to David. Num 20:22-28 I Ki. 19:19f
4. Did Jonathan know that David had been chosen and anointed by God as the next king? 16:1 23:17
5. Of whom does Jonathan remind you? John 3:30
6. May God give us the humility of Jonathan. Luke 14:11 Ps. 84:10

**III. Application: Friendship.**

**A. We all need friends. Prov. 18 Ecc. 4:9-12 I Co. 12:20f**

**B. Choose your friends wisely.**

1. Your friends have a powerful influence on you. Pr. 13:20 *He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.*
2. Avoid foolish companions: angry, drunkards, gossips. Pr. 14:7 12:26b 4:14-15 22:24-25 23:20 28:7 20:19 Ro. 12:1-2 II Co. 6:14-16 I Co. 15:33 5:10 Js. 4:4
3. Some may seek your friendship for the wrong reasons. Pr. 19:4,6 1 27:6b 29:5
4. Parents should take special interest in the friends their children make. Pr. 1:10f

**C. Carefully pursue a few close friendships.**

- 1. You can only have a few really intimate friends. 18:1 Jo. 15:12f 13:21,3**
- 2. One true friend is better than many fair weather acquaintances. Pr. 18:24 20:6**  
*A man of many friends comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother...Many a man proclaims his own loyalty, but who can find a trustworthy man?*
- 3. Loyal friends are rare and precious. I Sa. 18:1-5 20:1-42 23:16-18 II Sa. 1:26 9:1f Phil. 2:19-30 II Ti. 1:15-18 4:9f**
- 4. The most important friend you will choose is your spouse. 2:17 Gen. 2:24 Mal. 2:14 Song 5:16**

**D. You must be a friend in order to have friends. 18:1,24 Ro. 15:2**

- 1. Friendship requires effort and initiative.**
- 2. Don't spoil the friendships you have: gossip, quarrels, betrayal, etc. Pr. 17:9b 16:28 20:3 25:19 27:14,6b Ps. 41:9**  
*He who repeats a matter separates intimate friends... He who blesses his friend with a loud voice early in the morning, it will be reckoned a curse to him.*
- 3. Loving friendship is expressed by action. Le. 19:18 Mt. 19:19 Mk. 12:31 Ga. 5:14**

**E. Cultivate friendship.**

- 1. A friend is loyal. Pr. 27:10a**
- 2. A friend is trustworthy. Pr. 11:13 25:13,19 3:27-28 A friend will be there for you in your time of need. 17:17 27:10b Lu. 10:29-37 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity...**
- 3. A friend is generous. Pr. 14:21 28:27**
- 4. A friend is quick to forgive. Pr. 17:9a 19:11**  
*He who covers a transgression seeks love... it is his glory to overlook a transgression.*
- 5. A friend offers you wise counsel and encouragement. Pr. 27:9**  
*Oil and perfume make the heart glad, so a man's counsel is sweet to his friend.*
- 6. A friend will encourage you in the LORD. I Sam. 23:15-16 I Cor. 16:13-14**
- 7. A friend will admonish and correct you. 27:5-6 28:23 Lev. 19:17 Ro. 15:14 Gal. 6:1-2 2:11-14**  
*Better is open rebuke than love that is concealed. Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.*
- 8. A friend will sharpen you: making you a better person. Pr. 27:17 He. 10:24**  
*Iron sharpens iron. So one man sharpens another.*

**IV. Conclusion: How does this text point us to Christ?**

- A. Human friendships fall short. People let you down. Jer. 17:5-6**
- B. Jesus is the friend of sinners. Mt. 11:19 Luke 7:34 Jn. 15:13**
- C. Jonathan teaches us how we ought to respond to the LORD's anointed.**

**Discussion questions**

- 1. What did Jonathan sacrifice to be David's friend?**
- 2. What drew David and Jonathan together in friendship?**
- 3. Why do many Christian men fail to enter into intimate friendships with other men?**
- 4. Why do you need friends?**
- 5. What kinds of friends should you avoid?**
- 6. What kind of friends should you choose?**
- 7. What kind of friend should you be?**
- 8. What should you do as a result of hearing this message?**
- 9. How does this passage point to Christ?**
- 10. How does Jonathan's response to the LORD's anointed set an example for us?**