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# Making Friends

Abraham Lincoln once said, “A better part of one’s life consists of his friendships.”

The Bible also teaches us that friends are extremely important. Regarding friends, David’s son, Solomon, said:

*“Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.”* (Prov. 13:20)

*“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.”* (Prov. 17:17)

*“A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”* (Prov. 18:24)

*“Faithful are the wounds of a friend, profuse are the kisses of an enemy.”*  
(Prov. 27:6)

*“Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.”* (Prov. 27:17)

There are many different levels of friendship, but the friendship in our text is one of the most famous in all world history – that of David and Jonathan.

## I Samuel 18:1–5

<sup>1</sup>As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. <sup>2</sup>And Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father’s house. <sup>3</sup>Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. <sup>4</sup>And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt. <sup>5</sup>And David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him, so that Saul set him over the men of war. And this was good in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul’s servants.

Let’s make several important observations from these verses:

### 1. Real friends are knit together in the soul. (v. 1,2)

Aristotle said, “What is a friend? A single soul dwelling in two bodies.” The biblical version of that concept is two souls knit together by God – with a common love for God and a common purpose in life. David and Jonathan were both gifts from God to each other. They didn’t so much make the friendship as they received the friendship from each other and the Lord. We must always be open to soul mates, but also never try to force what only God can accomplish.

### 2. Real friends are covenantal partners. (v. 3)

We learn in I and II Samuel more of the implications of “covenantal friendship,” but we can look at our own church membership vows and be reminded of our pledge to seek the corporate peace, purity, and unity of the Body of Christ. Our friendships are not merely

the products of our sentiments or affections, but also of our wills and our minds. Our friendships must be built on principle as well as preference.

### 3. Real friends sacrifice for each other. (v. 4)

Notice that in his friendship with David, Jonathan stripped himself of his robe and his weapons. He divested himself of his claim to the throne out of his love and loyalty to David (cf. 23:17). He risked his life for David (cf. 20:30-33). His love was sweeter than that of a woman! (II Samuel 1:26) All true friendships involve cheerful sacrifice.

### 4. Real friends make each other successful. (v. 5)

David and Jonathan were “good for each other,” and they took delight in each other’s success.

### 5. Your real friend is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ!

He is knit to you, in covenant, at great sacrifice to Himself, so that you might be eternally “successful.” How can you be His friend? Think about that.

## Discussion Questions

- 1) How can we make ourselves available for real friendships?
- 2) How do you recognize a real friendship when you have one?
- 3) What most often causes the dissolution of good friendships?
- 4) How does our friendship with Jesus affect all other friendships?

## Helpful Resources

### BOOKS

[Friends and Friendships](#)  
by Jeremy and Mary White

## Digging Deeper

- 1) What do you need to do to be a better friend to Jesus?
- 2) What do you need to do to be a better friend to others?