

I Men's Breakfast

Biblical Manhood

The Christian Man and His Friends

1 Sam. 18:1-4; 19:1; 20:17

The Challenge of Friendship

True friendship among men is rare

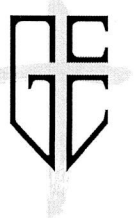
The Elements of True (Biblical) Friendship

It is the kind of friendship that is described in several ways biblically

- Souls knit together (1 Sam 18:1)
- Covenantal (1 Sam. 18:3; 23:18)
- Encouraging in God (1 Sam. 23:16).
- Kindred spirit (Phil. 2:20) – For I have no one like him, (Phi 2:20 ESV)
For I have no one *else* of kindred spirit (Phi 2:20 NAU)

II. The Benefits of Heart-to-Heart Friendships

- A. They keep us from the danger of isolation
*He who separates himself seeks his own desire;
He quarrels against all sound wisdom. (Prov. 18:1).*
- B. They keep from the danger of apostasy
Heb. 3:12-14
- C. Heart-to-Heart friendship provides emotional ballast for our souls
 1. The heart-to-heart friend is the one who weeps with his friend when they weep and rejoices with them when they rejoice.
Rom 12:15; 1 Cor. 12:26
 2. David and Jonathan
1 Sam. 23:15-18
“Never underestimate the power of personal presence.” Beeke
 3. Paul and Titus
2 Cor. 7:5-6



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Counsels for Nurturing and Protecting Biblical Friendships

Jonathan Holmes, "The more explicitly biblical a friendship, therefore the greater we can expect the opposition to be. Because Satan will spare no effort to mar or destroy the image of witness of God, believers must be on guard against spiritual threats to biblical friendship."

- **Be Constant and Consistent**

Prov. 17:17; 18:24; 27:10

- **Be Lovingly Truthful**

Prov. 27:5-6; 27:17; Eph. 4:15

- **Be relationally wise**

Prov. 25:17; 27:14; 25:20; 26:18, 19

- **Guard your speech**

Prov. 16:28

Prov. 11:13

Prov. 18:19

