

FRIENDSHIPS, RELATIONSHIPS & MARRIAGE

I Samuel 18:1-4, Prov. 17:17-18, I Cor. 13

“That’s What Friends Are For”

We are excited about this new series “Friendships, Relationships and Marriage”. Although we have had this teaching twice before in our 31 years of ministry, God never fails to give us new insight. Much has been “misconstrued” concerning friendships. People we thought were friends turned out to be turncoats. People who we thought didn’t even *like* us turned out to be loyal and faithful. How do we even ascertain which is which? God gave me this simple formula.

I pray it will answer someone’s question.

God said there are 3 types of “friends”.

1. “The Situational Friend” – That’s the stranger who helps you carry your groceries to the car or to your house. You never see them again, but they helped you in your time of need.
2. “The Seasonal Friend” – That’s the friend you meet in childhood, school, college, church or a job and remain close until one of you leaves. You typically lose “touch” with the individual but you were nonetheless true friends for that season.
3. “The Lifelong Friend” – These are individuals that remain friends with you for the duration of your lifetime. It doesn’t matter when you met them – they remain your true friend throughout the rest of your life.

God said all three categories are truly friends, they just serve different roles in your life. Friends should never be confused with sisters or brothers. Proverbs 17:17-18 declares “A friend loveth at all times – a brother is born for adversity”. How very true. Ever notice how ugly things can get when a family member opposes you. There are feuds where relatives stop speaking to each other for decades. A friend on the other hand will wait til you “cool off” and then some how resume their role in your life, almost like nothing happened.

I Samuel 18:1-4 describes the incredible love David had for his friend Jonathan. I do not believe their union was homosexual in nature. I believe the love the bible describes is the *Philia* (Greek for friendship) love same gender people can genuinely have for one another.

The components of this relationship are these:

- 1) Love (I Cor. 13)
- 2) Trust
- 3) Communication
- 4) Generosity
- 5) Compatibility

A Christian friend will always remind you of the love of God.

Relationship with a Believer will cause you to submit yourself to the Will of God for your life. True friends communicate *truthfully* with you. Real friends GIVE to you regularly and consistently. True friends get along with you. True friends bring out the best in you!!