

# Proverbs: Wisdom for Living

*Friendships*

April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010

## Jonathan + David = the Ideal Friendship

**1 Samuel 20:13, 14, 17** May the LORD be with you as he used to be with my father. <sup>14</sup> And may you treat me with the faithful love of the LORD as long as I live. ... <sup>17</sup> And Jonathan made David reaffirm his vow of friendship again, for Jonathan loved David as he loved himself.

**1 Samuel 23:16-18** Jonathan went to find David and encouraged him to stay strong in his faith in God. <sup>17</sup> "Don't be afraid," Jonathan reassured him. "My father will never find you! You are going to be the king of Israel, and I will be next to you, as my father, Saul, is well aware." <sup>18</sup> So the two of them renewed their solemn pact before the LORD.

## QUESTIONS we all ask:

Am I Liked?

Am I Accepted?

Am I Valuable?

Am I Challenged?

Am I Growing?

## BENEFITS of Friendship

**Proverbs 13:20** Walk with the wise and become wise; associate with fools and get in trouble.

**Proverbs 28:23** In the end, people appreciate honest criticism far more than flattery.

**Proverbs 27:6** Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy.

## LEVELS of Friendship

- **CHOOSING to belong**

**Ephesians 2:19** (LB) "...You are members of God's very own family... and you belong in God's household with every other Christian."

**Romans 12:5** (NIV) "In Christ we who are many form one Body, and each member belongs to all the others."

- **LEARNING to Share**

**Acts 2:44** (LB) "All the believers met together constantly and shared everything with each other."

**Proverbs 27:17** "People learn from one another, just as iron sharpens iron."

**Galatians 6:2** "Share each other's troubles and problems."

Hebrews 10:25 "Let us not give up the habit of meeting together. Instead, let us encourage one another..."

- **DOING my part**

**Ephesians 4:16** "The whole Body is fitted together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole Body is healthy and growing and full of love."

**Matthew 25:40** "Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to Me."

- **LOVING like family**

**1 John 3:16** "We know what real love is because Christ gave up His life for us. And so we also ought to give up our lives for our Christian brothers and sisters."

**John 13:35** "Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are My disciples."

***Father, next to salvation, the greatest gift you have ever given us is the opportunity to be a part of your family and enjoy authentic friendships.***

***Thank you that we don't have to go through life disconnected and isolated.***

***Help me to be a better friend...***

***Thank you for the joy and blessings of friendship!***