

(TOWARD) A DEFINITION OF FRIENDSHIP 1 SAM. 23:13-18

Much of the issue with my friend came down to a definition of friendship!

1. Social | superficial

This would include all social media apart from face-to-face, in-depth relationships

Plus most casual contacts

Not wrong just not very much!

2. Beneficial | artificial

Mr. _____ is friends with Pastor _____ of LCBC &/ Pastor _____ of LCBS. He will also be friends with the next pastor / school administrator.

This is called **positional friendship – friendship of the position!**

Who does this hurt the most?

3. Circumstantial | situational

Work with

Live near

Go to the same church

Interests in common

You are “friends” as long as you are here!!!

4. Emotional

I like| feel sorry for...!

It is good to like your friend but is that really a friend? Friendship?

5. Functional – what we do

John 15:12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. **John 15:13** **Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.** **John 15:14** **Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.** **John 15:15** Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

So, how do I know if someone is a friend? Or, if I am a friend?

I. Jonathan took the initiative | left his comfort & safety

1 Samuel 23:16 And Jonathan Saul's son **arose, and went to David into the wood**, and strengthened his hand in God.

John 15:12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. **John 15:13** **Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.** **John 15:14** **Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.** **John 15:15** Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

Proverbs 17:17 A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Thoughts:

- Friendship is inconvenient

- Friendship isn't all excitement
- Friendship takes time
- Friendship requires sacrifice or giving up
- Friendship requires leaving our comfort / routine

II. Jonathan strengthened his hand in God

1 Samuel 23:16 And Jonathan Saul's son arose, and went to David into the wood, and strengthened his hand in God.

Proverbs 27:17 Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

III. Jonathan gave him hope & a future

1 Samuel 23:17 And he said unto him, **Fear not**: for the hand of Saul my father shall **not** find thee; and thou **shalt** be king over Israel, and I shall be next unto thee; and that also Saul my father knoweth.

Proverbs 25:25 As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so *is* good news from a far country.

Proverbs 27:9 Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so *doth* the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel.

Words, notes, hugs, visits, meals, trips...

The right thing

The right time

The right motive

Proverbs 25:11 A word fitly spoken *is like* apples of gold in pictures of silver.

IV. Jonathan confirmed his love & commitment

1 Samuel 23:18 And they two made a covenant before the LORD: and David abode in the wood, and Jonathan went to his house.

1 Samuel 31:6 So Saul died, **and** his three sons, and his armourbearer, and all his men, that same day together.

2 Samuel 9:1 And David said, **Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake?**

2 Samuel 9:2 And *there was* of the house of Saul a servant whose name *was* Ziba. And when they had called him unto David, the king said unto him, *Art* thou Ziba? And he said, Thy servant *is he*.

2 Samuel 9:3 And the king said, **Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may shew the kindness of God unto him?** And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son, *which is* lame on *his* feet.

2 Samuel 9:4 And the king said unto him, Where *is* he? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he *is* in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lodebar.