

People You Need in Your Life

Who's Your Jonathan: A True Friend

(1 Samuel 18:1-3; 2 Samuel 1:26)

- Introduction:
1. How many Facebook friends do you have?
 2. Now, how many of them are really "close friends?"
 3. We may have a lot of acquaintances, but how many close friends do we have?
 4. We all need a friend who shares your desires and will bless your life and help you be a better person.

I. Jonathan and David Loved Each Other

- A. In a hyper-sexualized society, I feel compelled to defend this relationship from slander.
- B. Many today try to make something sexual about David and Jonathan's relationship (1 Samuel 1:26).
- C. "Just As I Am: A Practical Guide to Being Out, Proud, and Christian" by Robert Williams, Episcopal Priest.
 1. "Does it startle you for me to suggest there might be positive images of homosexuality in the Bible?" (p. 55).
 - a. David and Jonathan.
 - b. Ruth and Naomi.
 - c. The Centurian and his servant.
 - d. Paul.
 - e. And even Jesus.
 2. You have to develop a "hermeneutic of suspicion" (p. 66) and read passages through "queer colored glasses" (p. 61).
- D. Men can love men and women can love women without it being scandalous and sexual.
- E. David and Jonathan loved each other.

II. How Their Love Was Expressed

- A. Through Similar Attitudes
 1. They were not jealous of each other or for what belonged to each other.
 - a. David and Saul (1 Samuel 24:1-5).
 - b. Jonathan and David (1 Samuel 23:17).
 2. They were both "all in" for God.
 - a. David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17:29,32).
 - b. Jonathan and the Philistines (1 Samuel 14:6-14).
- B. Through Similar Actions
 1. Jonathan took action to warn David (1 Samuel 20).
 2. David and Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9).

III. Why We Need Friends

- A. A friend can be closer than a brother (Proverbs 18:24).
 - 1. Blood is thicker than water...or should water (baptism) be thicker than blood?
- B. In friends, we find strength when we are weak (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Gal. 6:2).
- C. In friends, we find good counsel (Proverbs 27:9).
- D. In friends, we are made better (Proverbs 27:17).
- E. In friends, we are held accountable (Proverbs 27:6).

- Conclusion:
- 1. If you want good friends, you must be friendly, yourself (Proverbs 18:24).
 - 2. Good friends will make life more pleasant, and will help you on your way to heaven.