**1 Samuel 20: The friendship of David and Jonathan: A great example to us**

**Main: A good friend values their friends and what happens to them**

**1 Samuel 18:1-3**

**Sometimes the Lord brings people into your life with whom things just “click” and you “bond” - 1 Sam. 18:1-4; cf. Dt. 13:6; 1 Sam. 20:17**

**Genuine friendship reflects genuine, spiritual love - 1 Sam. 18:3; cf. 1 Cor. 13:4-7**

**Genuine friendship is not self-centered, but unselfish - 1 Sam. 18:4; 20:4; Phil. 2:3-11; Our interest should be their best interest!**

**1 Samuel 19:2-6**

**Genuine friendship is loyal - 1 Sam. 20:9, 32-34; 23:16-18**

**1 Samuel 23:16-18**

**Genuine friendship seeks to encourage**

**Genuine friendship emphasizes truth and honesty, with kindness - 1 Sam. 20:9; 12-17; Eph. 4:15**

**Genuine friendship is grounded on commitment to our friends - 1 Sam. 18:3; 20:16-17; 23:18; Pr. 17:17**

**Genuine friendship wants what God wants in the lives of each; it is spiritual and accountable to God - 1 Sam. 18:3; 20:12-17, 42; 23:16-17; 1 Cor. 13(!)**

**2 Samuel 1:25-26**

**While few things compare to the love we have in marriage, even marriage is encumbered with expectations and needs that can impair its success.**

* **Friendship often does not have those issues.**
* **It is in this sense that a friend’s love can be said to be better than one’s spouse - 2 Sam. 1:26**

**2**

**Proverbs 13:20**

**A wise person pursues wise friends - Proverbs 13:20; Are you a missionary or a mission field?**

**Proverbs 12:26**

**Genuine friendships should involve deliberation and choice - Prov. 12:26**

**This should extend to dating and marriage - Prov. 18:22; 31:10f.**

**When we fail to do this, we can pay a high price! 1 Cor. 15:33**

**Proverbs 1:8-9**

**1. In general, parents really do have your best interests in mind. Listen to them!**

**2. People are more attractive to others when they are wise.**

**Proverbs 1:10-14**

**3. When you know something is foolish, you should follow your head, not your**

**heart.**

**4. The Bad Guys (BGs) are brilliant at making what is dangerous sound fun.**

**5. The BGs often appeal to a sense of power.**

**6. The BGs want to convince you that you can safely get something for nothing.**

**7. The BGs use a sense of friendship and community to draw others in.**

**Proverbs 1:15-18**

**8. Don’t go where they are. Stay away from them!**

**9. They’re not even smart enough to be called bird-brains! Why insult birds?**

**Proverbs 1:19**

**10. Allowing others to take the “easy road” to gain is actually a road to disaster.**

**3**

**Proverbs 14:7**

**Don’t make foolish people your close friends. Their influence can be disastrous.**

**For example…**

**Proverbs 22:24-25**

**Sometimes our friends are our greatest influence…for better or for worse.**

**Proverbs 28:7**

**When we spend time with people given to excess (eating, drinking, immorality) and self-gratification instead of self-control, it leads to embarrassing consequences - Prov. 13:4; Ps. 26:4**

**Practical Suggestions in Friendships**

**1. Be intentional –**

* **Initiate**
* **Make them a priority: Love is spelled T-I-M-E**
* **Pursue the relationship: phone calls, texts, emails, arranging convenient meeting times**

**But, be wise! You don’t want them hating the idea of you!**

**2. Be spiritual –**

* **Don’t focus on yourself, but them (Blind Date?)**
* **Build your relationship around common interests and make sure Christ is first, which means you *pray for them, forgive them, pursue their growth in Christ and avoid what does not fit that paradigm!***
* **Accept them (sort of…) We all want to be loved for who we are**
* **Always accept their failures and never accept their failures**
* **Can we ignore Biblical standards and truly love some one?**

**4**

**3. Be encouraging –**

* **Life is difficult and one of the main commands toward the church is to daily encourage one another.**
* **So, what might that look like?**

**4. Be selective –**

* **The reality is that you only have so much time for your highest priority relationships.**
* **So, choose your priority relationships and use your time wisely.**

**5. Be generous –**

* **…with your time and resources…**
* **…both to Christians and non-Christians, but…**
* **…know the difference in relationships…**
* **…what drains you/them and what builds you/them?**