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Daily Devotional - Building Lasting Friendships

OCTOBER 02ND 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Romans 12:10

How many true friends do you have? At first, a lot of names may come to mind, but the longer you consider the question, the more likely it is that the number will start to dwindle. The reality is, we do not have many genuine friends—the ones who will remain loyal no matter what circumstances arise.

This dependable, intimate closeness is what the Lord wants for us, but it's a rare treasure. The biblical account of David and Jonathan can help us learn how to foster such a relationship (1 Sam. 18-20). Their story demonstrates that genuine friendships are built upon a foundation of mutual respect, love, and authentic commitment. Today, let's explore the first component.

For true companionship, each party must appreciate the other's godly qualities. This starts with an attitude of valuing all people. After all, if Jesus chose to die in their place even before they acknowledged Him as Savior, they must certainly have great worth. But at the same time, the high regard that David and Jonathan had toward one another was greater than mere respect; it revealed admiration for qualities that Scripture commends. These included loyalty to the nation of Israel, courage in battle, and strong faith in God.

Consider the question asked earlier about the people you deem "true friends." Do these individuals exhibit godly attributes that you respect? And do they, in turn, have admiration for the biblical characteristics they see in you? This mutual, scriptural respect is a necessary foundation for genuine and lasting friendship.

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