

The Types of Love: Covenant Love

Challenge: Be vulnerable and open to allow God to refine you through relationship with your brothers or sisters.

Problem: We are bred to be competitive individuals; we isolate ourselves to protect ourselves. In so doing, we become weak, feeding off of our own discernment and energy. Our model to correct this is in Jonathan and David's covenant of friendship. *ref. Rom 12:3-5, John 17:20-21, Acts 2:42-47*

Point 1: 1 Sam 18:1-5 Realize that the friendship God wishes to call you into is not one of **self-interest**. God's plan for covenant friendship is to **partner** with him for the benefit of our friends. Jonathan gave to his friend David what God had already given him in order that David might stand in the court of kings prepared—to stand in the place into which God called David. *ref. John 15:13*

The modern conception of friendship is that of **mutual benefit**, symbiosis. Instead, Jonathan saw David, his soul was knit to him, and he wanted to give all he could to help realize David's **calling**.

Point 2: 1 Sam 19:1-7 Jonathan acted as a reconciler between David and Saul. As a good man he loved his father, and through his love for David, his brother in covenant, he worked to bring peace and prosperity in both of their lives. This also models Jesus in our lives as He reconciles our relationship with the Father, standing between us as an intercessor.

Point 3: God wants us to lower our defenses and become **vulnerable** to our covenant brothers and sisters. Each of Jonathan's possessions symbolizes a part of himself.

1. His robe and tunic represent his status and **reputation**.
2. His sword and bow represent his **security** and **barriers**.
3. His belt represents his **humility**.

Jonathan had to completely bare himself to his brother so that he could give himself to his brother. These are often the things we protect the most; they are those things that maintain our images, keeping us unchanged in the **status quo**. *ref. 1 Sam 17:4*

"This is every man's deepest fear: to be exposed, to be found out, to be discovered as an imposter..." John Eldredge

Point 4: Luke 10:25-37 We feel alone and disconnected and think that such depth of relationship is unattainable. In fact, the Hebrew word for "friend" is the same as the word "neighbor" and Jesus tells us our neighbor is **anyone** who is in **need**. You are surrounded by potential friends, not that you may get something from them but that you can give something to them. God calls us to love our neighbor as our friends.

----We believe these relationships are fundamental to your growth. We believe this kind of friendship is something God burns with desire for you to enter into. We have provided a mechanism to help you attain this – COVENANT GROUPS!

My Thoughts...

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some roles you can fulfill or things you can give to your covenant friends?
2. What things can stand in the way of you opening up with your covenant friends?