



Northside Proclaimer

Proclaiming The Word Of The Lord

1 Thessalonians 1.8

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October 5, 2014

“Love Exemplified Through Friendship”

Bryan Garlock

There is a somewhat controversial account between two men found in the Old Testament. It is the story of David and Jonathan. Its controversy is due to a twisting of scripture to fit a movement within the LGBT* society. This article is not meant so much to debunk their claims per se, however, the fact that God condemns homosexuality as well as considers David a man after His own heart is enough to conclude these folks have distorted powerful scripture (Lev. 18.22; Acts 13.22). Further, neither David nor Jonathan was punished by death, a penalty for practicing homosexuality under the law (Lev. 20.13).

The LGBT society’s skewed view of these two men is based on their love for one another. From the beginning of David and Jonathan’s friendship, their souls were joined together, “and Jonathan loved him as his own soul” (1 Sam. 18.1; 3; 20.17). As time continued their bond became stronger, and nothing withstood the affection they had for one another. Though the two experienced good times and bad, no matter the outcome, their perpetual bond was inseparable. Even when Jonathan’s inheritance of his father’s kingdom was on the line, their friendship came first (1 Sam. 20.1-42, note 31). When Jonathan died in battle, David’s cry was “[h]ow the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle! ‘Jonathan lies slain on your high places. I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; very pleasant have you been to me; your love to me was extraordinary, surpassing the love of women’” (1 Sam. 1.17-27).

I want a friend like that. I want a friend that loves me, cherishes me and no matter the persecution, stands beside me. Yet, I realize too, that if I want a friend like that, I must be that friend first (cf. Luke 6.31).

The book of Proverbs is full of friendship wisdom. The writer teaches us how to make, keep and even lose friends. First, we learn not to make friends with “a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man, lest you learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare” (22.24-25). *Continued on back...*

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Announcements

- Remember John Blair
- Remember the shut in's.
- Pray for the church and one another.
- Men's Bible study
October 12th
- Teen's Bible study /
Kid's drill today
- Call or email me to add
announcements, thanks.

The gospel
meeting was a
success! Thanks
for everyone who
prayed, passed
out flyers, and
worked to put
together a great
meeting!

All lessons are
online!

Second, we learn to keep friends by “[loving] at all times...” (17.17). Finally, we learn how to lose our friends. Solomon wrote, “[a] dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends” (16.28). While much more can be found within the pages of this book, these three points should suffice to teach us about friendship.

His wisdom also presents the underlying pinnacle to any friendship. It's what David and Jonathan exhibited and it's far from what the LGBT society thrives off. The culmination to any friendship is pure unadulterated love.

Paul penned, “Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things” (1 Cor. 13.4-7). Sounds like a recipe for good friendship!

James once said, [y]ou adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God” (James 4.4). Through Christ we have been given the opportunity to become, once again, friends with God (Col. 1.20-23). Love was what bonded David and Jonathan together and love is what bonds us together with Christ. Won't you be a friend today? BG

*LGBT are initials that stand for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender.

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