

Godly Friendships

What are the characteristics of Godly Friendships?

A study in 1 Samuel 18-20

The characteristics of Godly Friendship are...

- 1. ENDURING LOVE** - *1 Samuel 18:1,3, 20:17*
- 2. MUTUALLY EDIFYING**
- 3. AUTHENTICITY**



I SAMUEL



Jonathan & David

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1. ENDURING LOVE

Covenant Love

1 Samuel 18:1, 3, 20:17



1 Samuel
Chapter 17



² So Jonathan said to him, “By no means! You shall not die! Indeed, my father will do nothing either great or small without first telling me. And why should my father hide this thing from me? It *is not so!*”

1 Samuel 20:2



Now when David had finished speaking to Saul, **the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.**

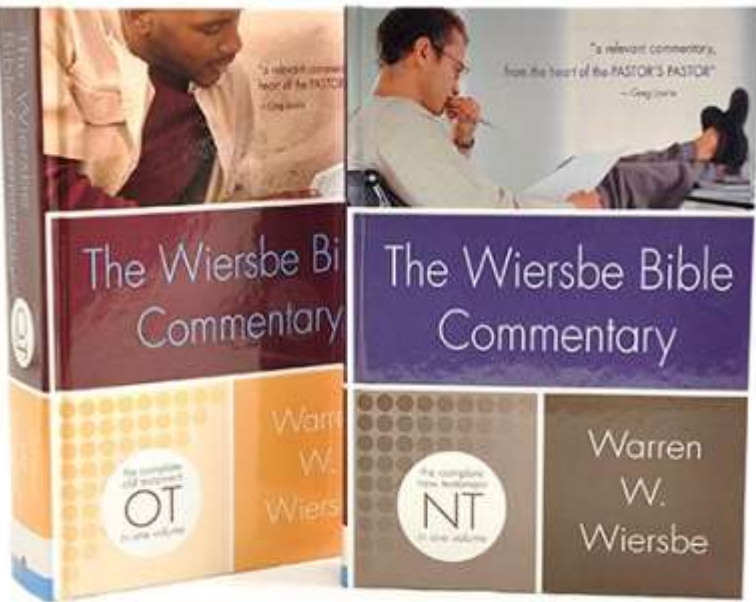
1 Samuel 18:1



A SPIRITUAL BOND



It is likely that David admired the Prince of Israel, the presumptive heir to the throne up to this point at a distance, until this meeting.



It is interesting that biblical chronologists calculate that Jonathan could have been 25-28 years older than David. ([Wiersby O.T. Commentary pg. 525](#))

A SPIRITUAL BOND

Jonathan's soul became bound up with the soul of David", they became one in spirit.



HEBREW COVENANT







We love because
he first loved us.

AN ENDURING LOVE COMES FROM GOD

1 John 4:19

**“More wonderful was your love for me
my brother, than the love of women”**

2 Samuel 1:26



Neither the word for love here, *ahaba* (Hebrew), nor the relationship of the two men suggests any abnormality. The word *ahaba* was a technical term in covenant texts for the bonding together by pacts of loyalty and reciprocal responsibility. It refers, then, to a relationship between two parties, in the LORD, who could depend on one another.

(Criswell, W A. Believer's Study Bible: New King James Version. 1991. Thomas Nelson)

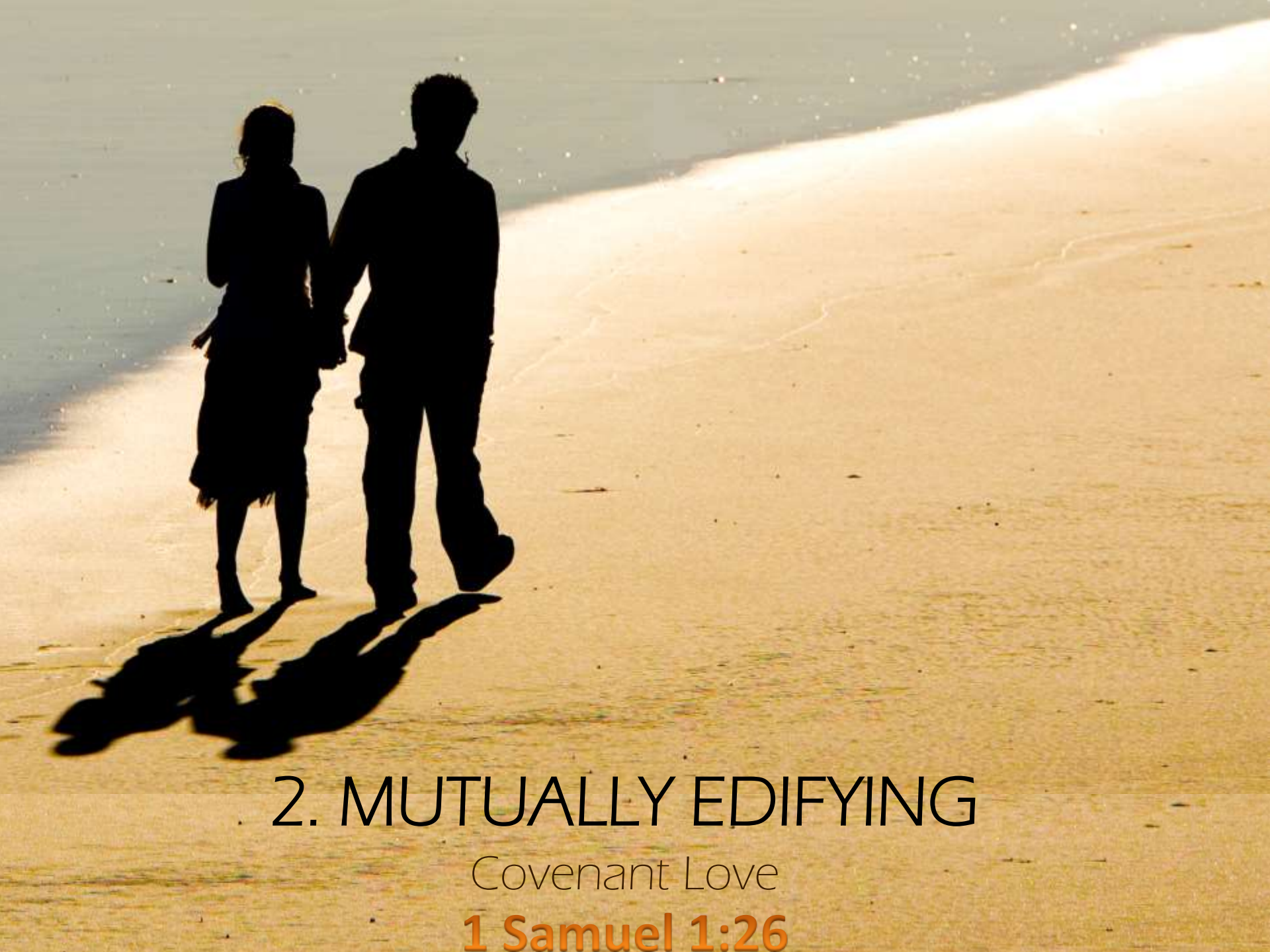
The CRISWELL Study Bible

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2. MUTUALLY EDIFYING

Covenant Love

1 Samuel 1:26

Then Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went to David in the woods and **strengthened his hand in God**. And he said to him, "Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you. Even my father Saul knows that."

1 Samuel 23:16



Now when David had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and **Jonathan loved him as his own soul.**

1 Samuel 18:1



And Jonathan took off the robe that *was* on him and gave it to David, with his armor, even to his sword and his bow and his belt.

1 Samuel 18:4



If you do not forsake your father and mother you cannot be my disciple **Lk. 14:26.**

Whoever does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple, **Mat. 10:37**



Jonathan is not the only one depicted as loving David. In these first few chapters of David's life, he is explicitly said to be loved also by Saul (1 Sam 16:21), by the people of Israel and Judah (18:16), and by Michal (18:20).



The friendship of David and Jonathan was the effect of Divine grace, which produces in true believers one heart and one soul, and causes them to love each other. This union of souls is from partaking in the Spirit of Christ. Where God unites hearts, carnal matters are too weak to separate them. Those who love Christ as their own souls, will be willing to join themselves to him in an everlasting covenant..

It was certainly a great proof of the power of God's grace in David, that he was able to bear all this respect and honor, without being lifted up above measure.





3. AUTHENTICITY

Godly relationships are authentic

Romans 12:9-10

“Don’t just pretend to love others. Really love them... Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.”

Romans 12:9-10 NLT



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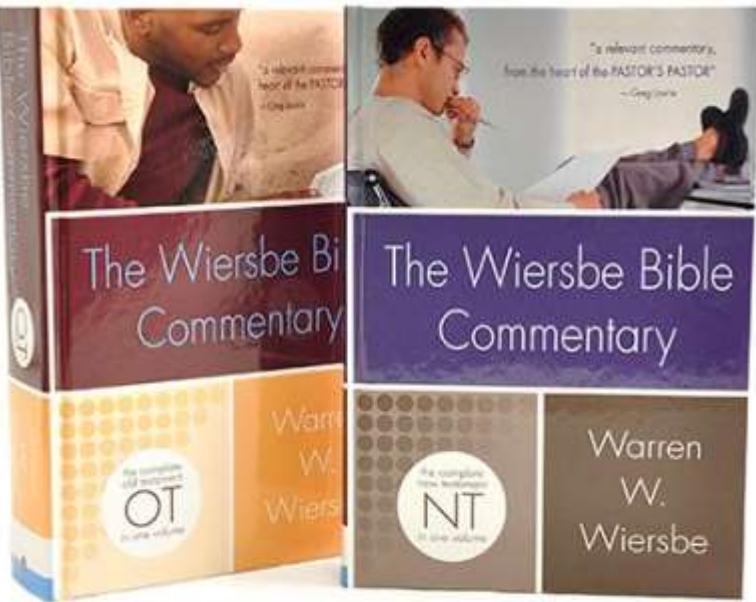
Can two
walk together,
except they
be agreed?
(Amos 3:3 KJV)

The purity of silver and gold is tested by putting them in the fire; The purity of human hearts is tested by giving them a little fame.

Proverbs 27:21



How we respond to a little fame, a little praise, reveals what we're made of and whether or not to take on even greater challenges.



IF praise or fame humbles us, then God can use us, but if praise puffs us up, we're not yet ready for greater things.

Don't do anything out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind, let each esteem others better than themselves. Let each of you look out not only for your own interests, but also for the interests of others

Philippians 2:3-4

