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**RELATED SCRIPTURES**

Colossians 3:12–13 | 1 Samuel 14:1–23 | John 15:12–13

**STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 7.28.24****SUMMARY**

There are several reasons why Jonathan shouldn't love David. Jonathan, son of the sitting king, would presumably be "second in line" in the kingdom. Jonathan was already a well-respected man of faith and courage (1 Samuel 14:1–23), so the sudden appearance of a celebrated young shepherd boy who had just defeated Israel's greatest enemy should cause jealousy or resentment from Jonathan. Yet Jonathan's response was utterly different than what we might otherwise expect—he became "knit to the soul of David." What does this reveal about Jonathan? It tells us that Jonathan was most committed to the Lord's advancement over worldly or self-serving priorities. Jonathan was devoted to the well-being of God's people over his own; he was zealous for the defense of Israel and Israel's Lord above all else—this starkly contrasts Saul's emerging jealousy of David (1 Samuel 18:7–9). What was it that knit the hearts of David and Jonathan together? It was a mutual love and respect—not for each other—but for the God whom each one loved. Christians today can know this type of friendship—a friendship not directly rooted in the qualities we admire in one another but in our love of Christ. When we focus our concern on the glory of Christ, a natural byproduct of this will be a spirit that refuses to oppose the labors of our fellow believers. Instead, a deep, joyful friendship emerges. Our love of Christ compels us to have "compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience" for one another, which is continually "bearing with one another." It insists upon "forgiving each other" (Colossians 3:12–13). It is the love of Christ which "dwells in you richly" (Colossians 3:16) that knits our souls together and causes us to love each other as our own souls because, in the end, it is the soul of Christ that we love.

**GROUP QUESTIONS**

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of 1 Samuel 18:1–5.

Notice the passage immediately preceding 1 Samuel 18; what well-known account is it? What do you suppose about that event caused Jonathan, the son of King Saul, to be "knit to the soul of David"?

Even in Christian circles, we don't hear friendship described as being "knit to the soul" or "loved him as his own soul." Why do you suppose this is? What gives the Christian the freedom to express friendship in this manner?

If there's one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER**

As you pray, be sure to include today's themes in what you bring before God.