

An aerial photograph of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, featuring the city skyline, a multi-lane highway, a large parking lot, and the Fort Pitt Bridge over the Allegheny River. The text 'FOREVER FRIENDS' is overlaid in a large, yellow, bubbly font with a dark blue outline.

FOREVER FRIENDS

10. We will ensure every person can name their pastor and friends within the church.

“I have a pastor who knows and loves me, and I have some of my closest relationships in the church.”

Busy

MOBILITY

TECH

POLARIZATION



John 15:11-14

I have said these things to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are My friends if you do what I command you.

1 Samuel 14:6

“Let’s go across to the outpost of those pagans,” Jonathan said to his armor bearer.

“Perhaps the Lord will help us, for nothing can hinder the Lord. He can win a battle whether He has many warriors or only a few!”

1 Samuel 17:26

“Who is this pagan Philistine anyway, that he is allowed to defy the armies of the living God?”

1 Samuel 17:45-46

“You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. Today the Lord will conquer you...”

1 Samuel 17:56-18:4

As soon as David returned from killing Goliath, Abner brought him to Saul with the Philistine's head still in his hand. "Tell me about your father, young man," Saul said. And David replied, "His name is Jesse, and we live in Bethlehem." After David had finished talking with Saul, he met Jonathan, the king's son. There was an immediate bond between them, for Jonathan loved David.

1 Samuel 17:56-18:4

From that day on Saul kept David with him and wouldn't let him return home. And Jonathan made a solemn pact with David, because he loved him as he loved himself.

Jonathan sealed the pact by taking off his robe and giving it to David, together with his tunic, sword, bow, and belt.

David and Jonathan entered into a
covenant friendship.

How committed are you to your friends?

adelphōpoiēsis - “**Brother-Making**”

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”

(Ps. 133:1)

Sex – Any intimate relationship is probably sexual.

“Tristan and Isolde, Antony and Cleopatra, Romeo and Juliet, have innumerable counterparts in modern literature: David and Jonathan, Pylades and Orestes, Roland and Oliver, Amis and Amile, have not.”

–C.S. Lewis

Sex – Any intimate relationship is probably sexual.

Family - Friends are never as important as family.

Matthew 12:48-50

“Who is my mother, and who are My brothers?” And pointing to his disciples, He said, “Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.”

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Family - Friends are never as important as family.

Work - My success at work defines my worth.

Sex – Any intimate relationship is probably sexual.

Family - Friends are never as important as family.

Work - My success at work defines my worth.

Freedom - The less accountable and anchored, the more free I am to be my truest self.

1 Samuel 18:6-7

When the victorious Israelite army was returning home after David had killed the Philistine, women from all the towns of Israel came out to meet King Saul. They sang and danced for joy with tambourines and cymbals. This was their song: “Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands!”

1 Samuel 18:8-9

This made Saul very angry. “What’s this?” he said. “They credit David with ten thousands and me with only thousands. Next they’ll be making him their king!” So from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David.

1 Samuel 19:4-5

Jonathan spoke well of David to his father Saul, saying to him, “The king should not sin against his servant David, because he has not sinned against you, and because his deeds have been of good service to you; for he took his life in his hand when he attacked the Philistine, and the Lord brought about a great victory for all Israel. You saw it, and rejoiced; why then will you sin against an innocent person by killing David without cause?”

Galatians 6:2

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

John 15:13

“No one has greater love than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends”

Isaiah 53:4-6

Surely He has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted Him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the punishment that made us whole, and by His bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.