



Discipleship Essentials Pathway - Week 15 “Relationships”

Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NIV)

Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

1 Samuel 17:57-58 (NIV)

As soon as David returned from killing the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul, with David still holding the Philistine’s head. ⁵⁸ “Whose son are you, young man?” Saul asked him. David said, “I am the son of your servant Jesse of Bethlehem.”

1 Samuel 18:1-4 (NIV)

After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself. ² From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return home to his family. ³ And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. ⁴ Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt.

I. Godly relationships are consequential.

Proverbs 13:20 (NIV)

Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.

What to look for in a consequential friend:

1. Consequential friends are faithful.
2. Consequential friends are honest.
3. Consequential friends call us up to noble things.

Proverbs 18:24 (ESV)

A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

- A faithful friend is more committed to the you than to the friendship.

Proverbs 27:5-6 (NIV)

Better is open rebuke than hidden love. ⁶ Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

II. Godly relationships are built on covenants, not contracts.

- A contract is a formal agreement between two or more parties, based on mutual benefit and specific terms.
- A covenant is about promise - it binds people together through love and loyalty.

1 Samuel 18:1-4 (NIV)

After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself. ² From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return home to his family. ³ And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. ⁴ Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt.

- Covenant love is sacrificial, loyal and God-centered.

1 Samuel 20:42 (NIV)

Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the Lord, saying, 'The Lord is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever.'" Then David left, and Jonathan went back to the town.

Aspect	Contract	Covenant
Motivation	Self-interest	Self-giving
Language	"You owe me."	"I give myself to you."
Duration	Temporary	Unending
Focus	Performance	Promise-keeping

Summary:
A *contract* is built on mutual benefit—protecting interests.
A *covenant* is built on mutual commitment—giving oneself in love.

2 Samuel 9:1 (NIV)

David asked, "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

Proverbs 17:17 (NIV)

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.

III. Godly relationships take character.

- Our wakes are either propelling people or paralyzing people.
- A steep wake occurs whenever relationships take a back seat to tasks.
- A steep wake occurs whenever relationships take a back seat to personal fulfillment.

1 Samuel 18:3-4 (NIV)

And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. ⁴ Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt.

- Godly friends don't compete; they celebrate God's calling on each other's lives.

John 13:35 (NIV)

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.