

# IMITATORS

*of God*

FRIENDSHIP THAT ENDURES  
1 SAMUEL 23:15-18



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Two things are essential in this world—life, and friendship. Both must be prized highly, and not undervalued. They are nature's gifts. We were created by God that we might live; but if we are not to live solitarily, we must have friendship.

*Augustine*

I think to a feeling mind there is no temporal  
pleasure equal to the pleasure of friendship.

*John Newton*

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What does it mean to be an imitator of God in my friendships?

If I am to imitate God in my friendships...  
I will **SHOW UP**, especially when it's hard for  
them. (v. 15-16a)

If I am to imitate God in my friendships...  
I will SPEAK UP, strengthening them with  
what God has said. (v. 16b–17)

Friendship should be more like a submarine, holding few and going deep. But we've made it more like a cruise ship, filled with lots of nice people whom we don't know well at all [...] We often float on the surface of our conversations, sharing little more than the most general details of our lives.

We note our plans for the day, share a few interesting (or uninteresting) details about our week, offer a few sports or political opinions. But we don't share the climate of our souls. We don't share our struggles with sin.

We don't share our experiences of spiritual renewal or admit that we're sitting in a season of darkness. No one knows when our soul feels spiritually chilly. Nor are most of us adept at drawing out others in these ways.

*Drew Hunter, Made for Friendship*

A friend is someone you tell your secrets to, someone you let in on the real things that are going on in your life. They're the ones who really know what's going on with you. They know your temptations, and they know what most delights your heart.

They know how to pray for you instinctively. [...]  
A friend is not merely someone who knows your  
Facebook page. **A friend is someone who  
knows your soul.**

*Sam Alberry, 7 Myths about Singleness*

If I am to imitate God in my friendships...  
I will remain STEADFAST, sticking with  
them for the long-term. (v. 18)

Then Jonathan made a covenant with David,  
because he loved him as his own soul.

*1 Samuel 18 :3*

And Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, "May the Lord take vengeance on David's enemies." And Jonathan made David swear again by his love for him, for he loved him as he loved his own soul.

*1 Samuel 20:16–17*

Then Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, because we have sworn both of us in the name of the Lord, saying, 'The Lord shall be between me and you, and between my offspring and your offspring, forever.'"

*1 Samuel 20:42*

If I am to imitate God in my friendships...  
I will remain STEADFAST, sticking with  
them for the long-term. (v. 18)

But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God."

*Ruth 1:16*

When you have found such a man, and proved the sincerity of his friendship; when he has been faithful...to you, grapple him to yourself with hooks of steel and never let him go.

*Charles Spurgeon*

If I am to imitate God in my friendships...  
I will remain STEADFAST, sticking with  
them for the long-term. (v. 18)

Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life. He will return the evil to my enemies; in your faithfulness put an end to them. With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you; I will give thanks to your name, O Lord, for it is good.

For he has delivered me from every trouble,  
and my eye has looked in triumph on my  
enemies.

*Psalm 54: 4–7*

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