

# HONOR & RESPECT

## WEEK TWO: BLOOD BROTHERS

By Carey Madding  
February 12, 2012

Deep friendships are rare. They are based on honor and respect, but they take more than words and feelings. We'll take a look at the life of David, and how we're to give honor and respect to those that God puts around us. Let's focus on real friendship, God's way.

### Where Am I Today?

- 1) People struggle with friendships. Some folks have many (but shallow) friendships—maybe “acquaintances” would be a better descriptor. Some have one or two deep, long-lasting friends. Some people struggle with trusting anyone at all! If you were in a crisis situation—and needed prayer, or someone beside you at the hospital, or to comfort you on the phone—do you have that type of friend? **Read** Proverbs 17:17. **List** the people in your life that you could call at 3:30 a.m. without thinking twice about it.

### Into the Bible

- 2) Let's face it, many of the interactions we have with our friends are based on comparisons. Golf handicaps, job statuses, possessions, or our children's abilities are all potential topics of fun, teasing, and competition. But competition can easily turn into jealousy and unhealthy relationships. Look at the scriptures below for some ideas about how to put aside that competitiveness.
  - a. 1 Samuel 19:4-6

# HONOR & RESPECT

- b. 1 Samuel 20:31-33
  - c. 1 Corinthians 3:1-4, 8-9, 21
  - d. Romans 12:15-16
- 3) The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a unique entity, committed to security and peace, and based on defense. The guiding principle is that an attack against one member is an attack against all. They rarely admit new members, because once you're in, they're bound to protect you from all enemies. Your enemies become NATO's enemies and your war becomes theirs. **Read** 1 Samuel 20:41-42. What do you notice? Is there a friend in your life to whom you are sold out, committed to protect their life, their honor, their reputation, and their family? What would that mean?
- 4) Proverbs 18:24 says, "A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." I always think of this verse as "a Friend"—Jesus (capitalization mine). If we consider ourselves Christ-followers, we must follow His leadership in this area of loving others well. See how Jesus modeled real friendship in the passages below:
- a. John 10:11 & 1 John 3:16
  - b. John 13:12-17
  - c. Matthew 11:1 & Mark 9:30-31
  - d. Mark 6:30-32

# HONOR & RESPECT

## How Does This Apply?

- 5) Are you the kind of friend you would want to have as a friend? Do you honor and respect your friends as Jesus demonstrated? Be specific as you evaluate your friendships. What is your next step?

What would you say or do to deepen a shallow friendship or to learn to trust a friend? Could it be to start with repairing or rekindling a deep friendship that has lapsed, either by your neglect or by your injury? Ask God. Listen. Then write down a concrete step, such as: "call Suzie," "send a card to Derek," "invite the Smiths over for dinner" or "pray about how to reconnect with Leslie."

## Digging Deeper: Going Further on Your Own

- 6) The covenant relationship between David and Jonathan and the ceremony that symbolized it (1 Samuel 18:1-4) compares closely to the covenant God made with Abraham. Check out Genesis 12:2-3, 7, 13:15-17 and Genesis 15.

It also points toward and reminds us of the life and death covenant Jesus made with us. This is the new covenant (testament) sealed with His blood described in Matthew 26:26-29 and fulfilled on the cross. Note: you can Google these covenants and find more than you can digest! Enjoy!