

Sisterhood in Christ

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for her friends...

What is Sisterhood in Christ?

1. Loving one another as Christ, first loved us (John 15:12) It's a command to us in JESUS' very own words. This is speaking of the Agape' Love which in the Greek means *Unconditional Love*.
2. The Faithful Church (Philadelphia) in Revelation 3:7-13 was the church of **Brotherly Love or Sisterhood in Christ**

Strong's #G5360 = to love, describes the love Christians have for each other

*Romans 12:10 speaks of this as well. Be kindly affectionate to one another with **Sisterhood** (brotherly) LOVE, in honor giving preference to one another*

*"For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is my brother and **sister** & mother."
Matthew 12:50*

Let sisterly/brotherly love continue. Hebrews 13:1
Job speaks of the friendship of God; *as I was in the prime of my days,
When the **friendship** of God was over my tent; Job 29:4*

3. **FRIENDSHIP** - going beyond the casual greeting to a relationship of love & caring. Building one another up in the most holy faith.
 - Encourage each other
 - Accept our differences
 - Cherish our times together, the LORD put us together for 'such a time as this'
 - Cover with LOVE – don't expose
 - Having a level of intimacy not shared with acquaintances



Figure 1: Wrapped In His Love



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ATMOSPHERES

We understand that when the scriptures speak of woman/women it is talking about the Church, right? So, as the Church or as women of the Church, is **LOVE** the dominate factor? When someone from the outside is looking in or steps into our atmosphere do they experience this love?

Know this as women; we produce or create atmosphere(s). They can be negative or positive. Have you ever entered a room and sensed a chill in the atmosphere? Or maybe, you've encountered an atmosphere of warmth, Joy, Reverence or a spirit of Excellence? We have all experienced many atmospheres throughout our lifetime. We can enter into them or stay on the outside and look in.

What does that person experience or receive when they are around us (when they enter our atmosphere)? Do they experience God's grace emanating from you?

- Agape' LOVE (unconditional)
- Acceptance
- Empowerment
- A Refreshing, like a drink of cold water on a hot day
(I called a friend the other day because I knew I could count on her for a refreshing of my soul, all is well with my soul!)

SCRIPTURE: (Jonathan & David)

1Samuel 18:1-4

1Samuel 18:1 says; ...the *soul* of Jonathan was knit to the *soul* of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own *soul*. In some Bible translations it says spirit.

SOUL: Strong's #H5315 – person, life, someone

Derived from Strong's #H5314 – refresh one's self or someone

We understand after seeing this in the Hebrew that David and Jonathan became best of friends and refreshed each other. They had a special bond of brotherly love.

- JONATHAN, his name means; 'gift' of God. Are you a Jonathan in someone's life, a gift of God?



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- DAVID, his name means; 'beloved' one who is loved. Do we have a revelation of the LOVE God has for you?

Can you remember the first time that God's LOVE filled you? When He ravished you and captivated you with His love? I will never forget it. I have claimed this scripture over my life since that time.

Song of Songs 6:3, I am my Beloveds and my Beloved is mine. He feeds his flock among the lilies. I am His beloved!



Figure 2: Dance of the Bride

David and Jonathan deeply cared for each other, the word is LOVED. The word LOVE in this scripture passage is speaking of *Phileo* Love (in the Greek), a human affection for another (friendship).

Both of these men made a Covenant with each other that was Eternal. The covenant they made is called the Salt Covenant.

1Samuel 18:3 Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.

We also read about the actual Salt Covenant which is perpetual in 1 Samuel 20:12-17.

Entering into a Covenant of Salt means; binding oneself to another in utmost loyalty and truthfulness, even suffering death, rather than breaking the covenant. For this very reason a Covenant of Salt was never done lightly or haphazardly – it deserved serious respect. To the Hebrews, salt represented purification, and was also symbolic of enduring friendship, honesty, and loyalty (2Kings 2:19 -21; 2Chronicles 13:5).

FRIENDSHIP was not taken lightly between Jonathan and David. Their friendship endured and stayed strong throughout their lifetime. Reading about Jonathan beginning in 1 Samuel 13 we see that he was of a different spirit than his father King Saul.



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1 Samuel 14:7 So his armor-bearer said to him, "Do all that is in your heart. Go then; here I am with you, according to your heart."

Entering into a new level of Sisterhood in Christ is a commitment first to Yeshua Messiah and then to one another. We must set purpose to our relationships and cultivate those that are truly born of the Spirit. When we put Jesus first we will develop a deep caring for each other because He first loved us (1John 4:19).

SISTERHOOD:

SISTER = family of God

HOOD =covering of the Holy Spirit, cover with LOVE

My husband and I have this little saying: Does anybody care? ...nobody cares! This is our way of saying; you are listening to me but not hearing me. Relationships are a two-way street. Both parties have to give a little as well as receive from each other.

Eternal (1 Samuel 20:42) relationships and friendships leave a legacy for others. Jonathan and David are just one of many relationships in the Bible based on brotherly (sisterly) LOVE.

GROUP EXERCISE:

Here is a group exercise that can help to take our relationships to the next level. Have each sister share something about her-self that brings great JOY to her personally. Tell the group something that they do not know about her, even though they see her on a weekly basis.

**Beloved of the LORD, remember this:
A FRIEND LOVETH AT ALL TIMES... Proverbs 17:17**

Figure 1: WRAPPED IN HIS LOVE, (8 ½ x 11) Artist Linda Harris-Iorio

Figure 2: DANCE OF THE BRIDE, (8 ½ x 11) Artist Linda Harris-Iorio

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