

# Defining Best Friends Forever

By Doug Hamilton

## Text Message Lingo

The odds are if you have a child or a grandchild, you have heard of text messaging. Anyone who has a cell phone can send a text message to someone else with a cell phone.

- The first text message was sent from a computer in December 1992, saying “Merry Christmas”.
- In 1995 the average cell phone owner used less than ½ one text messages a month.
- Today there are over 200,000 text messages sent every second somewhere on the globe. That is over 1.2 trillion of these messages sent every year and they increasing every month.

There is actually a lingo of text messaging that you should be familiar with. Here are just a few of the terms.

- :- ) = Happy
- :-( = Sad
- :-0 = Surprised
- ?4U -“I have a question for you”
- CYT -“See you tomorrow”
- LOL -“Lots of Laughter”
- PCM -“Please call me”
- FYEO -“For your eyes only”
- WUD -“What are you doing?”
- BFF -“Best Friends Forever”

It is concerning the last text “Best Friends Forever” that we have the title of the sermon, “Defining a BFF”. Using the relationship of David and Jonathan from the books of 1 and 2 Samuel, we will try to define what a “Best Friend Forever” is and how to develop this type of friendship with another. How can you identify a “Best Friend Forever”?

## A “Best Friend Forever” Loves Your Soul

1 Samuel 17:57-18:1 So when David returned from killing the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul with the Philistine’s head in his hand. <sup>58</sup> Saul said to him, “Whose son are you, young man?” And David answered, “*I am* the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite.” <sup>1</sup> Now it came about when he had finished speaking to Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as himself.

- Jonathan was “knit to the soul of David”, meaning that he loved David on the soul level above all. It is when you love someone for their soul that you can be a “BFF”.
- 1 Peter 1:22-23 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, <sup>23</sup> for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, *that is*, through the living and enduring word of God.
- Hebrews 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit *to them*, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

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### A “Best Friend Forever” Respects You as Himself

1 Samuel 18:3-4 Then Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. <sup>4</sup> Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, including his sword and his bow and his belt.

- Even though David lived in the palace with Saul, he was not at the level of royalty. Jonathan allowed David to wear the royal robe, the royal armor, the royal sword and belt of a prince. A “Best Friend Forever” would never try to be on a different level, but love you as themselves.
- Galatians 5:13-14 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only *do not turn* your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. <sup>14</sup> For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the *statement*, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.”
- James 2:8 If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF,” you are doing well.

### A “Best Friend Forever” Comes to Your Defense

1 Samuel 19:4-7 Then Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father and said to him, “Do not let the king sin against his servant David, since he has not sinned against you, and since his deeds *have been* very beneficial to you. <sup>5</sup> “For he took his life in his hand and struck the Philistine, and the LORD brought about a great deliverance for all Israel; you saw *it* and rejoiced. Why then will you sin against innocent blood by putting David to death without a cause?” <sup>6</sup> Saul listened to the voice of Jonathan, and Saul vowed, “As the LORD lives, he shall not be put to death.” <sup>7</sup> Then Jonathan called David, and Jonathan told him all these words. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as formerly.

- Jonathan stood up for David even when it was not the popular thing to do. How could anyone ever claim “BFF” status and not come to the defense of them in a moments that warrant it?
- 2 Timothy 4:16-17 At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me; may it not be counted against them.
- Acts 9:27 But Barnabas took hold of him and brought him to the apostles and described to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had talked to him, and how at Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus.
- Proverbs 31:8-9 Open your mouth for the mute, For the rights of all the unfortunate.  
9 Open your mouth, judge righteously, And defend the rights of the afflicted and needy.

### A “Best Friend Forever” Warns You When There is DANGER!

1 Samuel 20:35-42 Now it came about in the morning that Jonathan went out into the field for the appointment with David, and a little lad *was* with him. <sup>36</sup> He said to his lad, “Run, find now the arrows which I am about to shoot.” As the lad was running, he shot an arrow past him. <sup>37</sup> When the lad reached the place of the arrow which Jonathan had shot, Jonathan called after the lad and said, “Is not the arrow beyond you?” <sup>38</sup> And Jonathan called after the lad, “Hurry, be quick, do not stay!” And Jonathan’s lad picked up the arrow and came to his master. <sup>39</sup> But the lad was not aware of anything; only Jonathan and David knew about the matter. <sup>40</sup> Then Jonathan gave his weapons to his lad and said to him, “Go, bring *them* to the city.” <sup>41</sup> When the lad was

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gone, David rose from the south side and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed three times. And they kissed each other and wept together, but David *wept* the more.<sup>42</sup> Jonathan said to David, “Go in safety, inasmuch as we have sworn to each other in the name of the LORD, saying, ‘The LORD will be between me and you, and between my descendants and your descendants forever.’” Then he rose and departed, while Jonathan went into the city.

- Jonathan had worked out a secret code to warn David if it was not safe to come back into the palace, for Saul wanted him dead. Jonathan was truly a “Best Friend Forever” because he was willing to warn David of the dangers that lie ahead for him.
- A “BFF” cannot be if they are not willing to warn you of danger in advance. A “Best Friend Forever” is willing to bring the bad news if it means deliverance from peril. They will warn you a sin and destruction from the onset.
- 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.<sup>13</sup> No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

### A “Best Friend Forever” Will Encourage You Until the End

1 Samuel 23:15-18 Now David became aware that Saul had come out to seek his life while David was in the wilderness of Ziph at Horesh.<sup>16</sup> And Jonathan, Saul’s son, arose and went to David at Horesh, and encouraged him in God.<sup>17</sup> Thus he said to him, “Do not be afraid, because the hand of Saul my father will not find you, and you will be king over Israel and I will be next to you; and Saul my father knows that also.”<sup>18</sup> So the two of them made a covenant before the LORD; and David stayed at Horesh while Jonathan went to his house.

- This would be the last time that David and Jonathan would see each other, for shortly the latter would die in battle. The text says that Jonathan “encouraged him in God”. How could a person be a “BFF” and not have this quality? Your “Best Friend Forever” is going to be there for you during those times of discouragement to pick you up.
- 2 Timothy 4:6-11 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.<sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;<sup>8</sup> in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.<sup>9</sup> Make every effort to come to me soon;<sup>10</sup> for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens *has gone* to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.<sup>11</sup> Only Luke is with me. Pick up Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service.

### A “Best Friend Forever” Will Be Missed

2 Samuel 1:17-27 Then David chanted with this lament over Saul and Jonathan his son,<sup>18</sup> and he told *them* to teach the sons of Judah *the song of* the bow; behold, it is written in the book of Jashar...<sup>22</sup> “...The bow of Jonathan did not turn back, And the sword of Saul did not return empty.<sup>23</sup> “Saul and Jonathan, beloved and pleasant in their life, And in their death they were not parted; They were swifter than eagles, They were stronger than lions...”<sup>25</sup> “...How have the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! Jonathan is slain on your high places.<sup>26</sup> “I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; You have been very pleasant to me. Your love to me was more

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wonderful Than the love of women.<sup>27</sup> “How have the mighty fallen, And the weapons of war perished!”

- Acts 9:39 So Peter arose and went with them. When he arrived, they brought him into the upper room; and all the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing all the tunics and garments that Dorcas used to make while she was with them.
- John 11:33-36 When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her *also* weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and was troubled,<sup>34</sup> and said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to Him, “Lord, come and see.”<sup>35</sup> Jesus wept.<sup>36</sup> So the Jews were saying, “See how He loved him!”

### A “Best Friend Forever” is Willing to Lay Down His Life for You.

1 Samuel 20:12-17 Then Jonathan said to David, “The LORD, the God of Israel, *be witness!* When I have sounded out my father about this time tomorrow, *or* the third day, behold, if there is good *feeling* toward David, shall I not then send to you and make it known to you?”<sup>13</sup> “If it please my father *to do* you harm, may the LORD do so to Jonathan and more also, if I do not make it known to you and send you away, that you may go in safety. And may the LORD be with you as He has been with my father.”<sup>14</sup> “If I am still alive, will you not show me the lovingkindness of the LORD, that I may not die?”<sup>15</sup> “You shall not cut off your lovingkindness from my house forever, not even when the LORD cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth.”<sup>16</sup> So Jonathan made a *covenant* with the house of David, *saying*, “May the LORD require *it* at the hands of David’s enemies.”<sup>17</sup> Jonathan made David vow again because of his love for him, because he loved him as he loved his own life.

- Jonathan was willing to go before his father on behalf of David, risking his very life to intercede. All it took was one wave of the hand and Saul could have Jonathan put to death. That is a “BFF”.
- John 15:13 “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.
- John 10:11-15 “I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.”<sup>12</sup> “He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters *them*.”<sup>13</sup> “*He flees* because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep.”<sup>14</sup> “I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me,<sup>15</sup> even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.
- Jesus is the “Best Friend Forever” for all of mankind for He willingly laid down His life for us. He took our place on the cross, for we were worthy of death, but He took our place.

If you want to have a “Best Friend Forever” then...

- 1) develop these qualities in yourself.
  - 2) look for these qualities in your others.
  - 3) make sure that you have Jesus as your primary “BFF”.
- *Jesus knows all about our struggles; He will guide 'til the day is done: There's not a Friend like the lowly Jesus: No, not one! no, not one!*

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Closing thought:

Gsus <3s u + had 2d4 yr }-)  
*Jesus loves you and had to die for your evil.*

W@ willya do?  
*What will you do?*

Chng yr hart 2 him, b H2O bptzd + liv 4 Gsus 2day n d rest of yr lyf!  
*Change your hart to Him, be water baptized and live for Jesus today and  
the rest of your life!*

JC wnts 2b yr BFF!  
*Jesus Christ wants to be your Best Friend Forever!*