

This chapter starts with a lovely description of the unselfish character of Jonathan, Saul's son. If David is a type of Christ, perhaps Jonathan is a type of John the Baptist who said of Jesus, "He must increase, but I must decrease." Just as Jonathan gives his armor to David, John willingly allows his disciples to transfer their allegiance to the Lord Jesus in John 1:34.

Proverbs 18:24 tells us there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. It may well speak of Jonathan. In fact, the comparison is literally true in light of the condescending words of Eliab in the previous chapter. Jonathan's love and allegiance toward David far surpass that of his older natural brother.

Indeed, we can find another counter example to Jonathan at the outset of scripture when Cain murders his

brother Abel in a jealous rage over God having accepted Abel's sacrifice.

New Testament writings make clear that envy belongs to the old nature and should never appear among brothers and sisters in Christ. We tend to think this means envy of material possessions or worldly success. But we must also beware of spiritual envy where we resent the Lord's favor given to a brother or sister, as did Cain and Eliab. May we be like Jonathan, willing to surrender our armor for another's success, content in knowing that the Lord also has a path for us. "So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander" (1 Peter 2:1).

## Questions for study and discussion:

1. We read that Jonathan gives David his armor and weapons. What does this symbolize? How does it show Jonathan's unselfish love?
2. What is the covenant Jonathan makes with David?
3. Compare the reactions of Saul and Jonathan to David's military successes.

4. In verse 10, David's music enrages Saul rather than soothes him. What has changed?
5. In verses 13 and 25 Saul thinks to get rid of David by sending him to his death in a military venture. When does David himself do the same thing, to his shame?
6. How does David's knowledge that he will receive the kingdom affect his attitude toward Saul?
7. How would you describe Saul's relationship with his children?