



## #struggles - Relationships

Message by Tim Perkins

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*John 13:34-35 NLT*

*So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."*

### How is Technology Changing Relationships?

**1. The term for \_\_\_\_\_ is evolving.** (1 Peter 4:8 NLT)

### Let's Get Practical

**Be \_\_\_\_\_.** (Hebrews 10:24-25 NLT)

**2. We're becoming \_\_\_\_\_ to immediate affirmation.**

**Be \_\_\_\_\_.** (Psalm 46:1; Romans 12:9-10, 13 NLT)

**3. We have the power to do friendship on our own \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Be \_\_\_\_\_.** (1 John 3:18 NLT)

## Talk it Over:

### “Relationships”

#### Big Idea:

As you scroll through your day, does it feel like everyone else has it all together? Someone always has the best job, cutest kid, or happiest relationship. We're pressured to measure up to other people's status updates and left with more #struggles. This is especially true in our relationships. This week we learn how technology & realities around our relationships are changing. However, God's command for us to love people as He loves us remains the same.

*John 13:34-35 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

#### Discussion Questions:

- What does the word “friend” mean to you? What are the different ways you use that term?
- In what ways might technology change how you connect here in your group relationships?
- Share a time when you got a text or saw a post that was exactly what you needed at that moment. How can you do a better job of using technology to engage with others?
- How have you used technology to connect to someone in a positive, meaningful way?
- What are some signs that you may be addicted to immediate affirmation?
- Would your online friends know you're a disciple of Christ like John 13:35 describes? How can you show who Christ is to you besides just giving Jesus a shout-out in your profile?
- How can our group/family/circle of friends be a better expression of Hebrews 10:24-25? What can we do to make that true of our relationships?

#### Prayer Focus This Week:

*God, thanks for the way You have loved me! You have been patient, merciful, gracious, encouraging, forgiving, kind & ... (list other ways God has loved you personally). God, would you empower me by your Spirit to love people the way You love me? Who can I make an intentional effort to show Your love to today? Please give me courageous faith to love everyone I encounter today in the same way You love me... especially difficult people! In Jesus Name, Amen.*

#### Next Steps:

- What will you do this week to practice the power of being present?
- Who do you need to “really love” this week? How will you live out what Romans 12:9-13 and John 13:34 describe?
- How can we help each other with our #struggles this week?

#### Resources:

- *Digital Minimalism* by Cal Newport
- *5 Love Languages* by Gary Chapman