

SERMON: Authentic Relationship  
Series: RESET

Pastor Derek Sanford  
August 30, 2015

Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
2. This week's core value is stated this way: *Authentic Relationships: We won't just put on our "Sunday best" and pretend everything is okay. We create environments where it's safe to share stories of struggle, triumph, sadness, doubt, and hope.* How have you seen this value being lived out at Grace? In what ways have you seen it being lived out in your own life?
3. Derek said, "In many respects that elevator is a microcosm of our world today: an impersonal place where even though we are close in proximity we couldn't be further relationally." Have you experienced this in your own life?
4. Read **Matthew 22:36-40**. Derek called this passage the core of the Christian faith, and summed it up by saying, "Love God and love people." What would the church look like if we obeyed these two commands? What would your family look like if you obeyed them? Your circle of friends? Your work place?
5. Read **1 Thessalonians 2:7-12**. Derek talked about 3 building blocks of authentic relationships:
  - a. Care (:7-8) = "In authentic relationships there is always a rotation between having needs and meeting needs." Recall a time that you have been cared for. What does real care look like? Is it easier to give or to receive? Why?
  - b. Honesty (:9-11) = "Authenticity occurs when the masks come off, conversations get deep, hearts get vulnerable, lives are shared, feedback is invited, and tenderness flows." How does honesty encourage accountability and combat hypocrisy?
  - c. Spiritual Growth (:12) = "True community motivates us to walk in a way that is worthy of the God we serve." How are your relationships helping you become more and more like Jesus? Read Paul's words to Timothy, with whom he had an authentic relationship, in **1 Timothy 6:11-12**. Who in your life is speaking truth to you, challenging you, walking with you on this journey of faith?
6. Application: Derek said many times in his sermon that the best place authentic relationships occur is in Life Groups. Are you part of a group? How can your group grow in the areas of care, honesty and spiritual growth? Is there someone in your life who needs invited into a group? Is it time for you to lead a group?

Prayer Thought: Pray for your group- that it would be a place of care, honesty, and spiritual growth. Pray for the church- that we would grow in authentic relationships as more and more people join Life Groups.

**Series Memory Verse:**

*So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. 2 Timothy 2:22*