



Home Away From Home

Keeping It Real (Hebrews 3:12-15)

By Pastor David Hillis, 29 June 2014

BIG IDEA: A real relationship with God involves real, transparent relationships with God’s people.

- Intentional Relationships - *Intentional*- in that you pre-decide with someone or a group of people to meet regularly so that you can be in *relationship* with one another and encourage each other to grow in faith. The best way we at Grace facilitate intentional relationships is through small groups - groups of like-minded followers of Christ who meet to study God’s Word, pray together, and support each other.
- To have a solid, vibrant, growing relationship with God we have to be growing with others. Growth comes as we are transparent, open about our lives and our struggles before a few other believers we come to trust.

In what areas of your life do you struggle? Those areas you struggle with sin, those relationships with others you struggle to deal with, those life circumstances that seem to wear you down over time?

Areas of my life where I struggle:	Intentional relationships speaking into these areas:
------------------------------------	--

1. We are prone to wander (verse 12).

- Life is hard sometimes. It hits us in unexpected ways. It’s not always easy to follow the path we have committed to, regardless of how long we have been walking with Jesus. So God in His wisdom created the Church, to ensure we didn’t go through these things alone.

2. We limit that wandering by being real with believers who really care, and giving them a platform to speak into our lives (verse 13).

- Living a more transparent life isn’t easy. We tell ourselves that the “safe” thing to do is to trust no one, to keep the full picture of our lives over here , and show everyone just the good picture.

Living transparently before other believers:

1. Frees us from getting caught in a trap of secret struggle, sin, or doubt;
2. Helps them to spot areas of our lives where our thinking about ourselves or others isn’t right, or what it should be;
3. Frees them to be more open about what they see in us, because we have given them that platform to speak;
4. Frees others to be themselves as well, and share their struggles when they face them;
5. Helps others see how God is even speaking to them, as we identify with others’ weaknesses; and
6. It keeps us humble and shows God’s power in our weakness.

Evaluating Your Intentional Relationships

Are you in a small group?

Are there any intentional relationships God wants you to foster?

Small groups here at Grace are necessary to ensure that people live together as small families within the greater family at Grace to provide care, belonging and accountability. To disciple each other, because we all need it.

- Life is hard sometimes. It hits us in unexpected ways. It's not always easy to follow the path we have committed to, regardless of how long we have been walking with Jesus. So God in His wisdom created the Church, to ensure we didn't go through these things alone.

2. We limit that wandering by being real with believers who really care, and giving them a platform to speak into our lives (verse 13).

- Living a more transparent life isn't easy. We tell ourselves that the "safe" thing to do is to trust no one, to keep the full picture of our lives over *here*, and show everyone just the *good* picture.

Living transparently before other believers:

- 1.Frees us from getting caught in a trap of secret struggle, sin, or doubt;
- 2.Helps them to spot areas of our lives where our thinking about ourselves or others isn't right, or what it should be;
- 3.Frees them to be more open about what they see in us, because we have given them that platform to speak;
- 4.Frees others to be themselves as well, and share their struggles when they face them;
- 5.Helps others see how God is even speaking to them, as we identify with others' weaknesses; and
- 6.It keeps us humble and shows God's power in our weakness.

Evaluating Your Intentional Relationships

- Are you in a small group?
- Are there any intentional relationships God wants you to foster?
- Small groups here at Grace are necessary to ensure that people live together as small families within the greater family at Grace to provide care, belonging and accountability. To disciple each other, because we *all* need it.