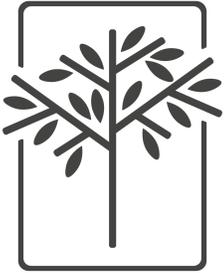


## Going Deeper

### The Collective Church Weekly Devotions

August 22, 2021 - John Bunn – Where is God in your relationships with others?



*“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.”*

*- John 13:34-35*

*With access to social media today, we have access to literally thousands of connections which were not possible before. However, how many of your “friends” on social media are you actually in relationship with? Relationships require intentionality. The intentionality you add in a relationship often is the measuring stick of how important that relationship is to you. Part of that intentionality is knowing where God is in every relationship.*

*This is where Christians get called out as hypocrites, by the way. Some Christians have the reputation of only hanging out with other Christians and being quick to judge anyone else who doesn’t appear to have the same church-going lifestyle. Jesus didn’t say, “Love one another, as long as they’re like you and they make you comfortable...” Ha! We are called to be lights of the world and salt of the earth. What this means to me is that we are intentional about our relationships and we place Jesus in the center of every one. Jesus is meeting people (including you and I) at different places, depending upon their (our) needs.*

*What we can do is love others, wherever they are. Loving does not mean always agreeing to their choices or lifestyle. Sometimes people need you to love them by telling them things they don’t want to hear! It’s your motivation that’s important. Are you judging them or are you loving them?*

Application Questions:

1. Do you know where God is in all of your relationships? This week, I want you to think about your relationships from the perspective of God being in them. Think about how that might change your intentionality in that relationship, then act!
2. Who have you not had a relationship with, whom you should? Is there someone at church that you think about talking to, but don’t? Life is short; take the time to build up the relationships in your life. Who needs you to love them right now?