

# Living Church: Building Authentic Relationships

Pr. Israel - Jul, 13th

We were never meant to walk this journey alone. Church is not just about showing up on Sundays — it's about building real relationships that heal, stretch, and transform us.

In a world where we can be connected to thousands online but still feel lonely, God calls us to something deeper:

## The Three Pillars of Authentic Relationships

### 1. Intentional Vulnerability

Romans 12:10 – *"Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other."*

Authentic relationships are built when we drop the masks and let others see who we truly are—flaws and all. True family is where you are fully known and fully loved.

### 2. Sacrificial Love

Romans 12:10 – *"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."*

Agape love is not just a feeling, but an act of will—putting others' needs above our own. Jesus is our model of sacrificial love, choosing the cross for our sake.

### 3. Mutual Transformation

Proverbs 27:17 – *"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."*

God uses community to refine us. Relationships are not always comfortable, but when rooted in love, they help us grow and mature spiritually.

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— Proverbs 27:17

## Start Talking: Spark Conversation

1. What's one word that comes to mind when you think about "relationship"?
2. Do you find it easy or hard to build deep friendships today?

## Start Thinking: Deepen the Thought

1. Why do you think vulnerability is so hard for most people?
2. What's the difference between feeling good in a friendship and truly growing in one?

## Start Sharing:

1. Share about a person who helped shape you, even through challenges.

## Start Doing: Commit to Act

1. Where can you practice more vulnerability this week? And who could you love sacrificially this month?
2. What's one step you can take toward spiritual growth in community?

## **Praying.**

Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of community. Help us to drop our masks and live in honest, vulnerable, and sacrificial love. Teach us to be sharpened and to sharpen others through real relationships. Heal the wounds of the past, and give us the courage to build connections that bring life and reflect Your heart. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## **Announcements:**

- Be part of our team - become a volunteer
- HOP every Friday 7pm at Formation Center
- Give your offering through Contribua, it goes straight to The Way Ministry.
- The Way Camp - First Batch on sale R\$ 340 (3x)