



WEEK TEN: WE RELATE

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What is “church”? As we continue through the book of Acts, we find characteristics of the early church that we should be exhibiting in our own church family. Last week, we learned that *we give* to one another—and to those outside the church. We’ll end the *Church* series with how *we relate* to believers, to those outside of the church, and to others who are checking out the claims of Christ.

Where Am I Today?

- 1) Have you ever walked into the middle of someone else’s conversation only to find awkward silence? How did you feel?

Into the Bible

- 2) The early church experienced two things that we sometimes think don’t mix: the power of God, and the favor of outsiders. **Read** Acts 2:3-4, 7, 12-13, 22-24, and 46-47. How can The Cove Church be a place that is known for God’s power, yet continue have good relationships with people who don’t come to our services or don’t yet believe?



- 3) There are reasons it makes sense for the church to be culturally relevant, and it's not so that we can be cool. **Read** the following passages on relating to people outside the faith. Why is it important to have positive relationships with people (both as individuals and as a group) who aren't used to church?
- a. 1 Corinthians 14:15-18, 23-25
 - b. Colossians 4:5-6
 - c. 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12
 - d. 1 Timothy 3:1-7 (especially verse 7)

How Does This Apply?

- 4) If you are well established at The Cove, what can *you* do to help people feel welcome when you attend a weekend service?
- 5) What can you do this week to build a positive relationship with someone who isn't interested in church? (Note: Please look at this person as a friend who might need to be introduced to Jesus, not as a project.)



Digging Deeper: Going Further on Your Own

- 6) There is an ongoing debate on who the “target audience” should be at church. Should it be people who are already Christians? Should it be people who aren’t Christians? Or should it be a mix? Either way, what should be the focus of the message content? Look at some of the passages below to see what Paul, Peter, and the author of Hebrews emphasized as they taught. Keep in mind, these instructions are written to people who were already Christians.

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Philippians 2:4-11

Hebrews 1:1-4

Galatians 1:3-5

Colossians 1:11-23

1 Peter 1:3-7