

Week 3:

# Why Relationships Are So Difficult



## Questions

1. What illustration, story, or example stood out to you this week?
2. We are reminded that meaningful relationships can be difficult and cause pain. Where are you seeing gains now from a relationship that was formerly painful? How did you invite God into that difficulty and then see Him at work?
3. Read Ephesians 4:3. When have you seen the Holy Spirit bring unity into a struggling relationship?
4. Read Ephesians 4:2. Think of a time when patience or humility changed one of your relationships. Was it the lack of humility/impatience or the presence of humility and/or patience that changed that relationship?
5. Read Ephesians 4:11-12. These are sometimes called spiritual gifts. What spiritual gifts has God blessed you with? How can you use those to serve God? How can you use those gifts to grow and strengthen your relationships?
6. What one practical step do you plan to implement from this week's message?

## Scripture References

Read Ephesians 2:1-5, 22; Ephesians 4:1-6, 11-16; Hebrews 12:2

## Takeaways

- We have to destroy the false notion that you can have a great life or relationship without any pain.
- God gives you relationships to grow you into a better and more Christlike person.
- Wisdom from a loving Father who is defined by His warm relationships:
  - Meaningful relationships in this world will be difficult and include pain.
  - Immediate pain relief or long-term growth
  - Some of your greatest opportunities for growth will come from conflict with the people you love the most.
  - Choose to unpack your relationship pain rather than avoid it.
- In your relationship pain, choose to not "tap out." Invite God to:
  - Grow you.
  - Mature the person you care about.
  - Strengthen that relationship.
- When it hurts too much, look to Jesus to be your Model, your Motivation, and your Mobilizing Power.