



**AUTHENTIC  
PURSUIT:**  
*Relationships Can  
Be a Challenge*  
*Part 1*

## ***1 Thessalonians 4:9-10***

***Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. And in fact, you do love all of the brothers throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers, to do so more and more.***



# Loving Others Is a Challenge

- *“Community will be easy.”*
- *“Relationships will be peaceful.”*



# Loving Others Is a Challenge

*Philippians 4:2*

*I plead with Euodia and I plead with  
Syntyche to agree with each other IN the  
Lord.*



# Loving Others Is a Challenge

- *“Community will be easy.”*
- *“Relationships will be peaceful.”*
- *“Connecting with others shouldn’t cost me too much.”*



*The issue of developing meaningful friendships is a significant threat affecting the health of Elim. Like most churches, Elim is filled with very busy people who are preoccupied with their careers, families, sports, and ministries. Most people willingly come together to participate in some form of small group. In their time together, we talk about the Bible; pray for the needs of our children, extended family, career, and friends; and then go home only to return the following week. When there is a crisis, we are quick to rally around the need and provide encouragement, support, and sometimes accountability.*

*However, in spite of having the best of intentions and a nagging sense of our own personal need, oftentimes there is a lack of meaningful connection. Because time and margin are scarce, there “seems” to be only enough time to talk about this journey rather than to walk together in this journey. We have enough time and understanding of community to try to “keep one another on track,” but we lack enough time and understanding in knowing how to participate in one another’s lives in meaningful, redemptive, and transforming ways.*

# Loving Others Begins with a Divine Encounter

*John 13:34*

*So now I am giving you a new commandment:  
Love one another. Just as I have loved you,  
you should love one another.*





# Loving Others Begins with a Divine Encounter

- *Encounter Jesus.*
- *This encounter with Jesus forms my motivation.*
- *This example of Jesus is my model.*

