

**Perspective: Relationships**  
**2 Timothy 1:1-5 Discussion Questions**

1. We asked several questions about preferences to make the point that some issues are relative and some are not. Why do some people get upset at the idea that there is ultimately one right perspective?
2. **Read 2 Timothy 1:1-2.** This letter is written between two people who are close friends and we learn a biblical perspective of relationships. First, healthy relationships are grounded in the gospel. If a relationship is not based on the gospel, what might it be based on?
3. What have been the differences in your relationships that were based on the gospel and those that were not?
4. How/why would a gospel foundation help a married couple remain married during difficult times?
5. The second characteristic of healthy relationships is unselfishness. How do we see Paul's unselfishness in his relationship with Timothy (see 2 Timothy 1:5, 4:6, 4:14-16)?
6. When you have been burned in your relationships with others, what has been your natural response? How might the gospel impact the way you should respond?
7. One mark of unselfishness in our relationships is that we seek out relationships with people even if it might not seem to benefit us. Have you ever done this? Has anyone ever done this with you?
8. The third characteristics of healthy relationships is authenticity. How do we see Paul's authenticity in 1:3-4?
9. Do you have people outside of your immediate family that you constantly pray for? Have you had any relationships with anyone that you "long to see" so that you might be filled with joy? Explain.
10. We talked about how technology is often designed to help us in our relationships, but it can isolate us and negatively affect our relationships. Have you seen ways that technology has helped/harmed our relationships?
11. Have any of your relationships been negatively affected by technology? How can we know if we are becoming addicted to technology? What are some ways we can battle this?
12. The fourth characteristic of healthy relationships is purpose. How do we see the theme of legacy in 1:3 & 1:5?
13. In your friendships and relationships, can you identify a purpose? What are some examples of purposes we should have in our relationships (with friends, spouse, children, church, neighbors, co-workers, etc.)? What are some ways we can be more purposeful in these relationships?
14. We have a desire to be loved and befriended, and we said only Jesus has loved us in the way we want/need to be loved. What are some specific ways Jesus has loved us in ways that others have not and cannot?
15. Why is it essential for a person to have a right relationship with God before they can have healthy relationships with others?