

III  
*Authentic*



Authentic Community

Authentic  
**II**



I have much to write to you, but I do not want to use paper and ink. Instead, I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete. <sup>13</sup> The children of your chosen sister send their greetings.

2 John 1:12-13



The Blessing  
and Limits  
of Technology



## Writing To Friends

I have much to write to you, but I do not want to use paper and ink. Instead, I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete. (2 John 1:12)

I have much to write you, but I do not want to do so with pen and ink. (3 John 1:13)



## The Limits of Writing

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## The Limits of Writing

But, brothers, when we were torn away from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you.

1 Thessalonians 2:17



The Nature of

Authentic Community



## Face To Face Relationships

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I have much to write you, but I do not want to do so with pen and ink. <sup>14</sup> I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face. (3 John 1:13-14)

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**II**



Face To Face - Unmediated

The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend.

Exodus 33:11



## Face To Face - Unmediated

"When a prophet of the LORD is among you, I reveal myself to him in visions, I speak to him in dreams. <sup>7</sup> But this is not true of my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my house. <sup>8</sup> With him I speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles; he sees the form of the LORD."

Numbers 12:6-8

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**II**



# Human Nature Is Communal

The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

Genesis 2:18



# The Beatific Vision

Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see **face to face**. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

1 Corinthians 13:12



# Community and Joy

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2 John 1:12



# Community and the Local Church

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2 John 1:12-13



# Limits of Authentic Community

I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face.  
Peace to you. The friends here send their greetings.  
Greet the friends there by name.

3 John 1:14



Applying the  
Authentic Word



**Technology is seductive when what it offers meets our human vulnerabilities. And as it turns out, we are very vulnerable indeed. We are lonely but fearful of intimacy. Digital connections and the sociable robot may offer the illusion of companionship without the demands of friendship. Our networked life allows us to hide from each other, even as we are tethered to each other. We'd rather text than talk. - Sherry Turkle, Alone Together**





The Meal  
of the  
Authentic Community