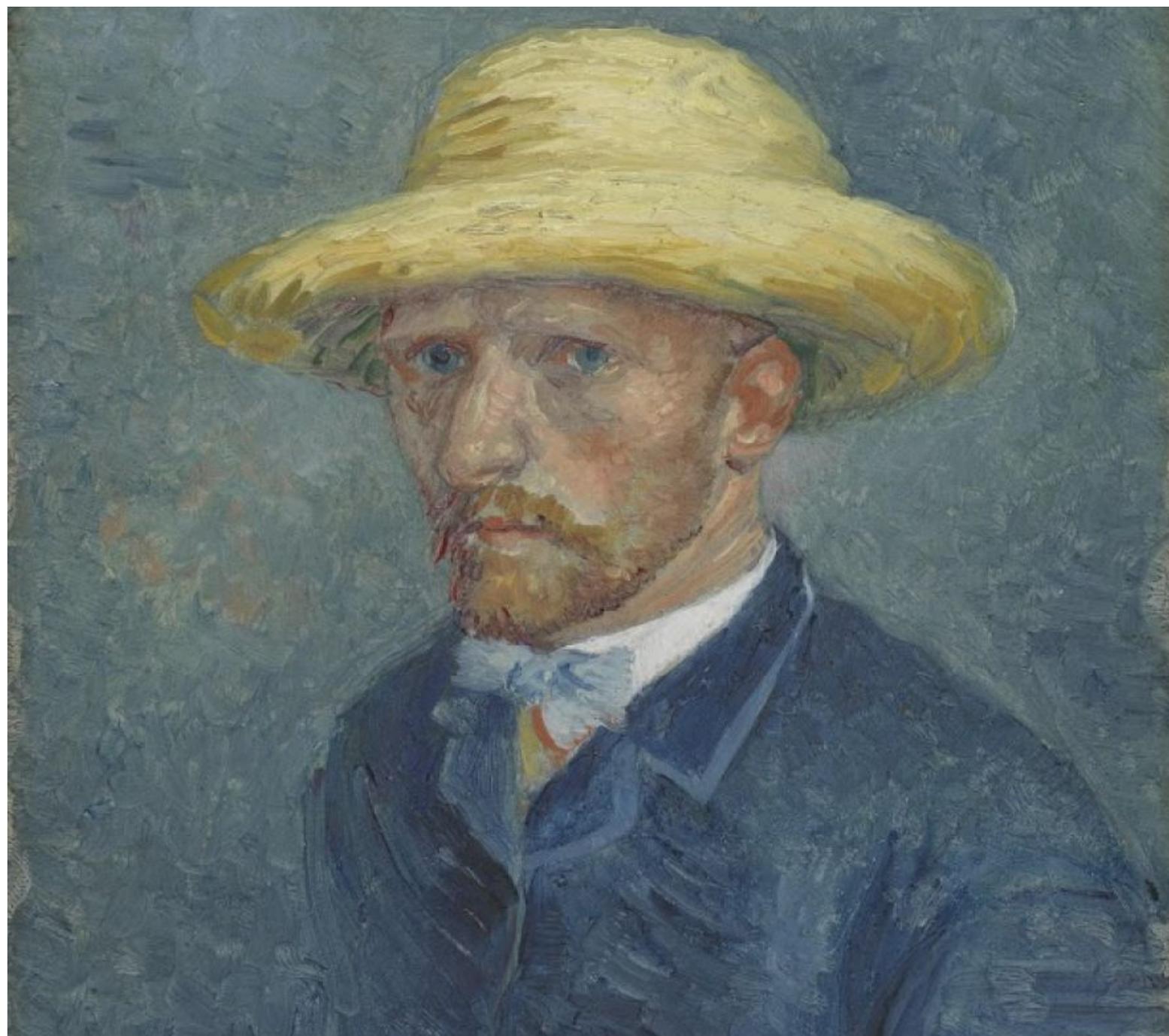


# RELATIONAL FORMATION

**"CHRISTIAN BROTHERHOOD IS NOT AN IDEAL WHICH WE MUST REALIZE; IT IS RATHER A REALITY CREATED BY GOD IN CHRIST IN WHICH WE MAY PARTICIPATE."**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer



# RELATIONAL FORMATION

## RELATIONAL FORMATION

Relational formation = connecting with other people in authentic, loving relationships

### Definition

- The process of spiritual transformation that results from being deeply involved in **authentic and life-changing relationships** with other people.

## 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

## RONALD ROLHEISER

"We go to church so as not to be alone—alone in our suffering, alone in the everydayness of our lives, alone in the important passages of our lives...We go to church to tell people we love them, and hopefully, to hear them tell us the same thing."



## DAVID A. SEAMANDS

"We talk a lot about being honest with ourselves and with God. And we sincerely – sometimes desperately – try to do this in our times of Bible reading and prayer. But the kind of honesty and self-knowledge, which will bring about lasting changes in our lives almost always requires another person. It is when we disclose our true, private selves to someone else that we fully come to know ourselves for real. Down deep we may dimly perceive the truth about our real selves, yet we go on denying or covering it with our superselves – even in prayer. However, once we have actually put the truth into words and shared with another, it becomes increasingly difficult to continue deceiving ourselves."

# “ONE-ANOTHER”

Spend some time committed to one of the ‘one anothers’ above. Picture what practicing this “one another” will cost you in time, money, and self-indulgence. At the end of each day notice how you lived and didn’t live your “one another”. Seek God’s grace to continue to practice this “one another” out of the overflow of his Spirit.

**John 13:34** – A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

**Romans 12:10** – Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

**Romans 12:16** – Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

**Romans 14:13** – Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother’s way.

**Romans 15:5** – Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus. (NASB)

**Romans 15:7** – Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

**Romans 15:14** – I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another.

**1 Corinthians 1:10** – I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.

**Galatians 5:13** – You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.

**Galatians 6:2** – Bear one another’s burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ. (NASB)

**Ephesians 4:32** – Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

**Ephesians 5:19** – Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord,

**Ephesians 5:21** – Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

**Colossians 3:13** – Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

**Colossians 3:16** – Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

**1 Thessalonians 4:18** – Therefore comfort one another with these words. (NASB)

**1 Thessalonians 5:11** – Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

**Hebrews 10:24** – And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

**James 5:16** – Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

**1 Peter 4:9** – Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.