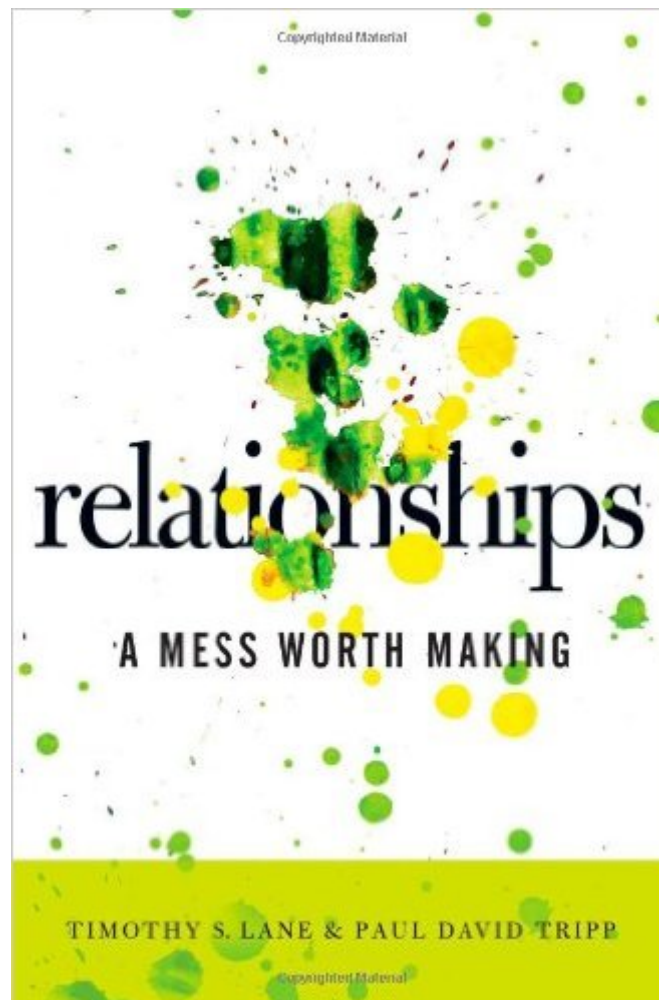


The book was found

# Relationships: A Mess Worth Making



## Synopsis

Hope for messy, conflict-ridden relationships. Your best friend is suddenly cool and distant. Your spouse can't stop complaining about your bad habits. Your son refuses to talk to you. What are you supposed to do? Plans A, B, and C might be to shut down, lash out, or get out. But consider Plan D: Recognize that God has the last word on those messy, conflict-ridden relationships. He can use them to make you into someone who can give and receive love with God and others. Impossible? Idealistic? Not really. In *Relationships: A Mess Worth Making*, Tim Lane and Paul Tripp show you how God does it, and how it can happen for you. They help you tackle the stubborn problems that plague many close relationships. They show you the deeper issues that drive our reactions, choices, and behaviors. And they show you how God steps in to help you build relationships that are all he intended them to be.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Last week I finished this new book from Resources for Changing Lives-*Relationships: A Mess Worth Making*. Tim Lane, together with Paul Tripp (author of one of my favorite books, *War of Words*) tackle the deeper issues involved in relationships in the lives of believers. Written with a gentle, we're-right-there-with-you tone but also grounded in the authority of Scripture this proved to be a helpful read considering my relationships and the specific ways I need to embrace the power and sufficiency of God's grace to redeem, restore and deepen the quality and purpose of relationships in my own life. The structure of the book is a little awkward because even though it has two authors they write as one. I was somewhat distracted by this especially when they would tell a personal

illustration but not say who's story it was. I was surprised that at the beginning of each chapter they had a lengthy excerpt from a secular song. And I was concerned at the couple of quotes they positively cited from Donald Miller of the Emergent Church movement. The one other hang-up I had was due to the multiple Scripture references quoted from The Message translation. Overall this was a beneficial read. Perhaps a better book addressing the heart of godly relationships would be Jerry Bridges book *The Crisis of Caring: Recovering the Meaning of True Fellowship*. However I would still recommend *Relationships: A Mess Worth Making* and here are some excerpts from my two favorite chapters: Chapter 5- Agendas p. 43 The default question we ought to bring to every area of life should be, "What is God's purpose and design? What was his reason for creating this?" When you apply these questions to relationships you begin to see how different his agenda is from your own.

*Relationships A Mess Worth Making* is written by Drs. Timothy Lane and Paul David Tripp. Dr. Lane serves as the Executive Director of the Christian counseling and Educational Foundation, a faculty member and is an experienced counselor. Dr. Paul David Tripp is president of Paul Tripp Ministries, a Professor, speaker and author. *Relationships a mess worth making* shows the importance of messy conflict written relationships and how God uses them in our lives to shape and form them in His image. The book has fifteen well-written easy to read chapters that are faithful to the Scriptures and proclaim and apply the work of Christ to everyday life. This is a unique book on relationships because it doesn't just quote the Bible as a reference- it seeks to take the reader through the Bible in order to understand what Scriptures say about relationships, and then applies the teaching of Scripture to real-life relationships and situations. As I read this book, I was personally challenged and convicted about many areas in my own life where I need to grow. While reading this book, I felt like I was sitting in on a counseling session with Drs. Lane and Tripp operating as surgeon and me as the patient. As the book moves from chapter to chapter the reader gains insight into not only why their relationships suffer and struggle but how to fix it. This is not a self-help book- this is a book that brings the Word of God and the whole Gospel to bear on the reader. Many Christians books on relationships fail because they go overboard in explaining theory or emphasize too much practical application. *Relationships A Mess Worth Making* strikes a balance between Scripture, application, personal stories and examples that needs to be modeled in the Church Today.

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