

The Cross is a Gift

Cruciform Love

'So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. **You are members of God's family. Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets.**

And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.”

Ephesians 2:19-22 NLT

“God is building a home. He’s using you, fitting you in brick by brick. We see it taking shape day after day — a holy temple built by God, **all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home.”**

Ephesians 2:19-22 The Message

Transform lives through love!

- 1. Experience God.**
- 2. Be family.**
- 3. Share love everywhere.**

When we continually experience God's love, it's natural to share love everywhere.

A small act can make a **BIG IMPACT.**



Lesslie Newbigin

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It is a terrible misunderstanding of the Gospel to think that it offers us salvation while relieving us of responsibility for the life of the world, for the sin and sorrow and pain with which our human life and that of our fellow men and women are so deeply interwoven.

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1. Personally Experience God's Love

John 17:23, 26

John 21:15

Ephesians 3:14-20

John 14:9

2. Participate in God's Mission

Mother Teresa was once asked why she chose to go to Calcutta for ministry when it is one of the most impoverished cities on Earth. She responded, "I just followed Jesus, and that is where He led me."



Jon Ely
Gateway Group Leader
Naugatuck

The mission of God is carried by the Spirit of God, working through the people of God.

A small act can make a **BIG IMPACT.**

3. Persevere Through Challenges

**We are called to join Christ's last days
"company of finishers". - Dick Eastman**

What do we do?

- 1. Ask Holy Spirit for insight into John 17:23, 26.**
- 2. Analyze how you give your time, talent, and treasure to Jesus.**
- 3. See people as those who need God's love and your love.**

“Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes with which Christ looks out His compassion to the world. Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which He is to bless us now.”

- Teresa of Avila

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