

# Together We Reach

Calvary seeks to be a church family that is better together,  
being changed by the gospel

**TO LOVE LIKE JESUS ACROSS  
ALL CULTURES AND GENERATIONS.**

## Jesus' commands to love:

**Luke 10:25-28:** *“And a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, ‘Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?’ And He said to him, ‘What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?’ And he answered, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ And He said to him, ‘You have answered correctly; do this and you will live.’”*

**John 13:34-35** *“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

## Why can this be difficult?

### Cultural and generational barriers and biases beyond our comfort zone:

- Social class differences. James 2:1-6
- Ethnic or racial differences. Ephesians 2:11-19; John 4:4-38
- Traditions, convictions or opinions. I Corinthians 8, 9:20-23, Romans 14
- Age differences. I Timothy 4:12, 5:1-3
- Outcasts of society. Matthew 8:1-3
- Everyone who is different from us that God is inviting into His family. Acts 10:9-16

## Jesus' love explained: Good Samaritan. Luke 10:30-37

### Show Mercy as opportunities arise with acts of Good Deeds

Does God's love compel us to act selflessly, make space, slow down and help others in need? Do we see others like Jesus does? Do we have wisdom to steward our time and resources for God's glory?

#### What kind of love is shown in this parable?

- Love that reaches those in need, overlooked, and marginalized by others
- Love that recognizes opportunities to be a blessing
- Love that is messy
- Love that is willing to take risks
- Love that is inconvenient, uncomfortable
- Love that is costly
- Love that does not promise any return
- Love that crosses cultural, racial and religious lines
- Love that is supernatural, reflecting God's heart

## The response of Peter to love like Jesus. Acts 10:9-16

### Share the Message with intentionality through words of Good News

Are we spiritually retired? Are we outsourcing the command to go and make disciples? How are we sharing the gospel with our own families, our friends, our neighbors, our coworkers - and reaching across barriers to welcome others into the family?

#### What do we learn from Peter's example?

- Prayerfully ask God to prepare your heart to love those of a different culture and generation. Acts 10:1-23
- Learn to view others through the eyes of Christ and the Bible to learn of His love for them. Acts 10:9-16
- Be ready to "get up and go" when God offers you opportunity to love other cultures and generations. Acts 10:19-20, 23
- Be honest and confess your own bias from past problems and your need for growth and change. Acts 10:28  
*"God has shown me that I should not call any man unholy."*
- Be open, humble and willing to listen and learn from others in different cultures and generations. Acts 10:29  
*"So I ask for what reason you have sent for me."*
- Be focused on God's larger kingdom work of salvation for all rather than your own partiality. Acts 10:34-43  
*"Opening his mouth, Peter said: 'I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him. The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all)'"*
- Be prepared for criticism from those who remain loveless based on their own biases. Help them understand God's love for all. Acts 11:2-4, 18  
*"And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those who were circumcised took issue with him, saying, 'You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.' But Peter began speaking and proceeded to explain to them in orderly sequence... When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, 'Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life.'"*



## Next Steps

### Opportunities to Reach

As followers of Jesus, we want to love like He does across cultures and generations. In 1 Peter 4:8-11, we are called by God to love one another and be hospitable, to reach out through sharing the good news about Jesus, and to serve others through acts of service and compassion so that Jesus receives the honor He is due. Where will you get involved and be a part of reaching others for Jesus Christ?

**In Your Life:** Who are you reaching out to? Commit to pray for those you know who need to accept the life-changing good news of Jesus. The Holy Spirit is sovereignly at work as we faithfully and intentionally share the gospel through our actions and words. The message we proclaim is that Jesus is the Christ, God Himself come as King to die and rise again, taking our punishment and guilt so we can be part of His eternal kingdom, now and forever. We must call people to respond by trusting Jesus as Rescuer and turning to Him as Ruler. Each of us needs to shine the light of Jesus, so that together our church acts as a lighthouse illuminating the darkness of a world in need. Find out more at [calvarylife.org/jesus](https://calvarylife.org/jesus)

**At Calvary:** We want to be a welcoming church of love and grace for all people. We need many volunteers to make this happen in every age stage, up-front and behind-the-scenes, on Sundays and during the week. Browse ways you can get involved serving in Connections, Care Ministries, Children's Ministries, Student Ministries, Adult Ministries, Mentoring, LifeGroups, Worship & Creative Arts, God's Housecare, Support Ministries and more at [calvarylife.org/volunteer](https://calvarylife.org/volunteer)

**In Our Community:** God has called us to go beyond the walls of our church buildings and reach out to the neighborhoods around us. We offer one-day service projects as well as volunteer opportunities with our local non-profit partnerships in the community. These strategic partnerships line up with our values of being Close, Consistent and Christ-Centered as we do our part to reach Orange County for Jesus Christ. Discover ways you can get involved at [calvarylife.org/local](https://calvarylife.org/local)

**Around The World:** We are part of a global effort to reach the world with the life-giving Gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ. The Reach Global Missions Ministry at Calvary helps you to be involved in fulfilling Jesus' Great Commission to go into all the world and make disciples through participation in prayer, financial giving, short term trips, and preparation to go into full time missionary service. To learn more, read the GLOBAL FAQ booklet in the Lobby or visit [calvarylife.org/global](https://calvarylife.org/global)

**In the area below, write down the people God has put on your heart to reach out to or the ministry opportunities you want to get involved in. Prayerfully commit your steps to the Lord and remain open to ways you can reach others with the love of Jesus across cultures and generations.**

## Reflection and Discussion Questions:

Reaching across all cultures and generations was Christ's original call to the church. His final words before ascending to heaven were in Acts 1:7-8: "He said to them, 'It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.'"

**What will we not know about God's plans so we should just trust Him?**

**Where should we be focusing and witnessing to respond to what we do know?**

**What cultures and generations is God calling you to reach? Where can you grow in this area?**

**What power does He promise us as we obey Him?** Read Ephesians 5:18.

We seek to be a church of many generations where we can connect with one another. Barna president David Kinnaman said:

*"Cultivating intergenerational relationships is one of the most important ways in which effective faith communities are developing flourishing faith in both young and old. In many churches, this means changing the metaphor from simply passing the baton to the next generation to a more functional, biblical picture of a body—that is, the entire community of faith, across the entire lifespan, working together to fulfill God's purposes."*

**What older or younger people are you seeking to connect with?**

**What biases come to your mind as you look across different generations?**

Reflect on the message from the front outline and answer the following questions:

First, from Luke 10:27-37, a spontaneous unexpected encounter to love another person that may surprise you and be difficult. Read through the passage again. **Which person in Christ's story do you identify with most? Who is your "neighbor" to reach out to? What barriers, if any, would you have to overcome to love them as Christ loves them?**

Second, from Acts 10, an intentionally designed plan to love another person that may push you outside your comfort zone. Read through Acts 10:1-16. **What are the characteristics of Cornelius' heart that prompted the Lord to come to him? What qualities should you have as well, to be a person ready to give and receive love? What aspects of Peter's growth to reach into a new culture and out of his comfort zone are most challenging to you? Which are you already practicing?**

**Consider the following barriers or biases from the message outline. Which of these areas pushes you beyond your comfort zone? Which are you doing well in? Which can you grow in? What do the scriptures teach you about each area?**

- **Social class differences.** James 2:1-6
- **Ethnic or racial differences.** Ephesians 2:11-19; John 4:4-38
- **Traditions or opinions I believe.** I Corinthians 8; 9:20-23; Romans 14
- **Age differences.** I Timothy 4:12; 5:1-3
- **Outcasts of society.** Matthew 8:1-3

Remember, our goal is to be a church where all people, regardless of their culture or generation, sin or suffering, can be changed by the gospel of Jesus Christ and become part of God's family. Pray for those you know that need that change. And be ready to "get up and go" to them.