

# **Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion**

**Date** : 1 Oct 2023  
**Sermon Title** : Loving Our Community  
**Speaker** : Rev Peter Koh  
**Text** : Galatians 6:10

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## **INTRODUCTION**

We need to know what is happening in our church, the very community we live in as well as fulfil the purpose God has for placing us here because when we take care of others but not our own household of faith, we are hypocrites. We lack credibility when we do not love our household because some people may look good on the outside but at home they behave like a monster. That is not glorifying God. Certainly, there will be conflicts when people gather as a family or a church, but the key is despite conflicts, we still need to love our community. Let us look at what the Bible says about loving our community in Galatians 6:10.

So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Galatians 6:10

Galatians 6:10 issues a call to do good to others. This call recruits every Christian into service as it is not a request or invitation but a divine mandate/command for the glory of God.

- We have a spiritual duty to serve the community in practical ways.
- Doing good is to be our lifestyle, not a special event.
- Doing good is not by our own strength or resources but through the indwelling of the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit.

## **Loving our community**

Doing good...

A) Because we are saved (Ephesians 2:8-10)

We are not saved by good works. (Ephesians 2:8-9) We are saved for good works. (Ephesians 2:10) We are saved to serve. We need to be very clear of our motivation to do good.

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*For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7*

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- We do good because God is good. God saves us to do good work, so that we may share in the good works of God. The goodness of God flows into us and through us, flows to others. This goodness is the moral values that God has placed within us. Because of His goodness in us, we can do good to others.

We do good not for salvation but as a result of the salvation we have in God. We do good from salvation.

## B) For eternal reward (Galatians 6:8-9)

We do good not for immediate earthly gains but for eternal reward.

- We share the hope we have in God because we want to see heaven filled with all our loved ones. We do not want the devil to destroy the wonderful creations of God. In other words, we do good for the salvation of people in our community. We do good not for our own pleasure but for eternity.

It is true that doing good is not always easy, but we draw strength from God. We need to be intentional in doing good. For example, do not just spend quantity time but quality time. This applies to our time with our family, friends and people in our community.

## C) With the opportunity given (Ephesians 5:15-16)

The Greek word for opportunity is '*kairos*'. '*Kairos*' means the right time or the divine time as opposed to the other Greek word for time, '*chronos*' which refers to chronological order of events according to the clock or calendar. '*Kairos*' is the divine appointment God has set. Opportunity has been given to you.

- Paul was saying you already have many opportunities to do good – Galatians 6:9 refers to a '*kairos*' time in the future. Do it now – Galatians 6:10 refers to present time! Do not wait for the "ideal" moments. God places people into our live at these divine moments so that we may do good by touching their lives. These divine or '*kairos*' moments may happen during our bus rides or while we are eating at the hawker centre.
- Every Christian is called to do good with the opportunity we have. We may have different gifts and personal responsibilities, but we have the same opportunity to do good. So, this is not an exhortation to find opportunities to do good. It is the assumption that you have been given the opportunity to do good.

We are not to do good to meet a goal, exercise a gift or fulfill a calling. It is not about buildings, programmes or activities. It is about people. People matter to God. That is why we do good to love the community.

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## **How to love our community**

### **1. Mandate - Great Commandment**

The mandate is from the Great Commandment, which is to love God and to love our neighbours. This is also the reason why for these two years, the focus of our church is to 'Know God Intimately' and 'Love people Genuinely'. Through knowing God intimately, we then love people genuinely. When we are filled with the love of God, we can love others and make disciples with a full tank. Otherwise, it is not possible to keep loving people and make disciples.

### **2. Mission - Great Commission**

Our church's focus for next year will be to 'Make disciples intentionally'. This is the mission, which comes from the Great Commission. There are many opportunities for us to fulfil this mission:

- One example is Christmas@Faith, where we want to bring God's love to the community. You can volunteer and serve in whatever capacity you have. Seize the '*kairos*' moment and step forward to serve. As we serve and bring God's love to the community, they will see the glory of God in us. The countenance of the Lord will ooze out of us.
- We can also come together to glorify God through our Adopt-a-Block (AAB) and God of Love Delivery (GOLD) initiatives, missions, participating in the DISCIPLE Course to be disciplined and be prepared to make disciples, and the list goes on.

When we align as one it pleases God.

## **CONCLUSION**

We can only love the community and do good with the goodness of God which flows through our lives because we have been saved by His love and know Him intimately. Let us continue to know God intimately so we may do good by respecting each other, handle conflict with love, forgive one another, protect each other, and cover one another in prayers. May we seize God's '*kairos*' moments which are opportunities He has given to us to love and serve the community of faith here in our church and beyond so we may fulfil God's mandate and mission.

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## **A. Review Sermon Application**

*Purpose: Reflect on how you have been embodying God's truth.*

- 1a. How successful have you been in fulfilling what you/your group had committed to do for the last FaithWalk?
- 1b. What were some challenges you faced and what would you like to celebrate?

2. Since hearing the sermon, how have you been “seizing the moment” to love your community?

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## **B. Relate Sermon Content**

***Purpose: Relate with the Truth and Resolve for Transformation.***

3. Read Galatians 6:10 slowly and reflectively.
  - a. How easy or difficult is it for you to do good to everyone, especially to those in the household of faith?
  - b.
    - (i) How have you been a recipient of love and goodness from God's community?
    - (ii) How does it impact you?
  
4. Who is your community?
  - a. How do you currently relate to your community and how can you love your community genuinely?
  - b. How can you live out God's mandate and mission to your community?
  - c. How can your group members help or encourage you to achieve 4b. above?
  
5. Your Life Group (LG) is one of the communities you belong to. How can you love and do good to one another in your group? Share concrete actions you plan to take.

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## C. Testimonies, Prayers and Action

*Purpose: Give glory to God, seek Him and embody His Word.*

6. The sermon listed some opportunities to love and do good to the community beyond our community of faith. Some examples are Christmas@Faith, Adopt-a-Block (AAB) and God of Love Delivery (GOLD) initiatives, missions, participating in the DISCIPLE Course to be disciplined and be prepared to make disciples and others. Seek the Lord and discuss as a Life Group, what is one 'kairos' moment that your LG can use as opportunity to serve? Take some time to make plans to serve with the Holy Spirit's guidance.
7. Take time to pray for each other on the concrete steps to be taken for questions 5 and 6. Pray also for everyone in our church to know and experience God's goodness in a deeper way, so His goodness may flow through us to touch one another in this household of faith, and the communities beyond.

### Optional items:

Suggested worship songs:

1. Worthy – Elevation Worship <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xdeFFKRX8as>
2. You Are My King (Amazing Love) – Newsboys <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M7cD9kAirXg>
3. Making A Difference – City Harvest Church <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FrPMxtUeONE>

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