

# The Community of Saints

Bible Class for 06-14-20

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**Designed to Heal and Serve:** *Polarization over issues of politics, policy, and race have led some to wonder if divisions can be healed. Today we look at the impact people who are part of the Communion of Saints can have outside the walls of the place we gather for worship, so that we can be a beacon of hope.*

## 1. A Nurturing, Caring Community

### Read Philippians 2:3-7

How did Christ show humility?

How are we in His community to show humility?

How can we know what “the interests of others” are?

## 2. Embracing our Calling

What is your “vocation?”

When you think of your “calling in life,” what do you think of?

### Read Ephesians 4:1

### 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

How is the word “calling” used in these passages?

How does this relate to serving your neighbor?

Reflect on this statement by Dr. Luther: *“We conclude, therefore, that a Christian lives not in himself, but in Christ and in his neighbor. Otherwise he is not a Christian. He lives in Christ through faith, in his neighbor through love. By faith he is caught up beyond himself into God. By love he descends beneath himself into his neighbor.”* (AE 31:371)

What do you think he means?

How does this expand our service to God beyond the confines of “church?”

### 3. A Common Calling – to All

**Read Matthew 25:34-45**

Regardless of the jobs and talents we may have, what are some common tasks to which we are called?

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**Read Matthew 5:16**

**1 Peter 2:11-12**

What is “evangelism?” *Literally, it is about sharing good news.*

What about evangelism is expressed here? *It is not just what is said, but about how we live and the choices we make*

Whose calling is evangelism? *All followers of Jesus.*

### 4. A Calling to Home

**Read Ephesians 5:21-33**

**Genesis 1:26-28**

**Matthew 19:6**

What distinctive resource does a Christian marriage/family have? *Christ is a partner to the relationship and brings gifts of forgiveness and selfless love.*

How does this offer an advantage to simply depending on love? *Our love is tainted by sin, which moves us to selfishness; Christ’s love brings forgiveness and healing to sin.*

**Read Matthew 19:14**

What is a primary calling for Christian parents? *Raising their children in the Christian faith.*

### 5. Next week: Summary, Conclusions, and Strategies!