

Building Bridges in a New Community

2 Corinthians 5:17-20

1) **Church is a community founded on the grace of God.**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation... — 2 Corinthians 5:17-18

2) **The Church exists to bless the world.**

...that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. — 2 Corinthians 5:19-20

On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. — Romans 12:20-21

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. — Galatians 6:9-10

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. — Ephesians 2:10

And as for you, brothers, never tire of doing what is right. — 2 Thessalonians 3:13

This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone. — Titus 3:8

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. — Hebrews 10:24

In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. — Matthew 5:16