

# Unleashing the Power of Compassion

1 Peter 2:11 NLT

Dear friends, I warn you as "temporary residents and foreigners" to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls.

Romans 12:2 NLT

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

**Pursue** God

Build **Community**

Unleash **Compassion**

They radically **risked** to reach people who were far from God.

They **uncompromisingly** called every believer to move from rows to circles and build community.

They unleashed unprecedented levels of **compassion**.

Acts 2:45 NLT

They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.

Acts 4:34 NLT

There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them.

Unleashing compassion is not something we **do**, it's something we **are**.

Isaiah 58:1-2 NLT

“Shout with the voice of a trumpet blast. Shout aloud! Don't be timid. Tell my people Israel of their sins! Yet they act so pious! They come to the Temple **every**

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Christ's Church of Marion County

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**day** and **seem** delighted to learn all about me. They **act** like a righteous nation that would never abandon the laws of its God.

Isaiah 58:2-3 NLT

They ask me to take action on their behalf, pretending they want to be near me. ‘We have **fasted** before you!’ they say. ‘Why aren’t you **impressed**? We have been **very hard** on ourselves, and you don’t even notice it!’

Isaiah 58:3-5 NLT

“I will tell you why!” I respond. “It’s because you are fasting to please yourselves. Even while you fast, you keep **oppressing** your workers. What good is fasting when you keep on fighting and quarreling? This kind of fasting will never get you anywhere with me. You humble yourselves by going through the motions of penance, bowing your heads like reeds bending in the wind. You dress in burlap fasting and cover yourselves with ashes. Is this what you call fasting? Do you really think this will please the LORD?”

Isaiah 58:6-8 NLT

“No, this is the kind of fasting I want: **Free** those who are wrongly imprisoned; **lighten the burden** of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and **remove the chains** that bind people. **Share your food** with the hungry, and **give shelter** to the homeless. **Give clothes** to those who need them, and **do not hide from relatives** who need your help. “**Then** your salvation will come like the dawn, and your wounds will quickly heal. Your godliness will lead you forward, and the glory of the LORD will protect you from behind. **Then** when you call, **the LORD will answer**. ‘Yes, I am here,’ he will quickly reply.”

Isaiah 58:10 NLT

**Feed the hungry**, and **help those in trouble**. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon.

Isaiah 58:11 NLT

The LORD will guide you continually, giving you water when you are dry and **restoring** your strength. You will be like a **well-watered garden**, like an **ever-flowing spring**.

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**Unleashing compassion** is not something we do, it's something we are.

Next **door**

In my **community**

Beyond **borders**

Hebrews 13:13-16 MSG

So let's **go outside**, where Jesus is, where the action is—not trying to be privileged insiders..... This “insider world” is not our home. ....Let's take our place **outside** with Jesus.....

Make sure you don't take things for granted and go slack in working for the common good; **share** what you have with others. God takes particular pleasure in acts of worship—a different kind of “sacrifice”—that take place in **kitchen** and **workplace** and on the **streets**.

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