



## **“TO HELP HURTING PEOPLE”**

Series: “WHY DOES THE CHURCH EXIST?”, Part 3 of 3

Sunday, March 16, 2025, at 9:00 and 11:00 AM

Text: Galatians 6:9-10, and miscellaneous topically relevant scriptures

**Big Idea: One of our greatest callings, joys, and privileges in life is to partner with God in helping to bring hope and healing to hurting people.**

### **I. WHERE DID THE IDEA OF HELPING HURTING PEOPLE COME FROM?**

#### **A. Jesus modeled and commanded it.**

Mark 1:35-38, Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed: “Everyone is looking for you!” Jesus replied, “Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.”

#### **B. The early church also modeled and commended it.**

Acts 4:32-33, “All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.”

Acts 4:34-35, “There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.”

1 John 3:17, “If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?”

### **II. IS THE CHURCH TO BE SIMPLY A “DO GOOD SOCIETY”?**

Luke 9:2, “And he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.”

### **III. FOUR QUESTIONS TO INFORM AND GUIDE OUR HELPING.**

#### **A. Is this person a true believer?**

Galatians 6:10, "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

#### **B. Are they willing to work?**

2 Thessalonians 3:10, "For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone will not work, neither let him eat." {NASV}

#### **C. Do they have family who can help?**

1 Timothy 5:8, "If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."

1 Timothy 5:16, "If any woman who is a believer has widows in her family, she should help them and not let the church be burdened with them, so that the church can help those widows who are really in need."

#### **D. Am I enabling them to continue in irresponsible or destructive behavior?**