

Growing and showing together

A. The church in the book of Acts was a healthy church:

And what kind of a church pleases the Lord

Remember the announcement of the birth of Jesus? **Luke 2:8-14**

Listen to the words of the Apostle Paul to the Philippians: 1:3-14

Look at what happened when the love of the church abounded:

*The apostle was encouraged and filled with Joy
The church was filled with the fruit of righteousness
The gospel was becoming well known to the world*

This was a healthy church that brought joy and pleasure to God.

When a church is spiritually healthy, it will bring joy to God=

*By being conformed to the Image of His Son [Rom. 8:29]
seeking to **please God in all things** [Col. 1:10]
walking in newness of [Christ's] Life [Rom. 6:4b]
serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. [1 Peter 4:9]
doing the work of evangelism [2 Tim. 4:4]
Remember what gave Paul so much joy:*

*their **participation in the gospel** through **their abounding love for one another***

*so that **cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else***

With such a church, God is well pleased

The Philippian church was a spiritually healthy church.

*And this morning, we will discuss one of the results of being a healthy family=**growing and showing***

The churches in **Acts** were **growing** churches

1. **growing** IN RESPECT TO RIGHTEOUSNESS=**Acts 2:42**
2. **growing** in giving=**2 Cor. 8:2-4**
3. **growing** IN DEEDS OF MERCY [LOVE]=**ACTS 2:44-46**

4. **growing** IN NUMBERS=ACTS 4:47B
as the church was **growing**, it was **showing** the world the wonder and grandeur of God,
showing what the grace of God looked like and what the glory of God could accomplish
in meeting needs through the power of the Gospel.

as a result God was **honored** and **praised** among the people. **Acts 2:47b**
Lakeview Christian is a **growing** and **showing** church but the Lord desires that we excel in this
even more. [**1 Thess. 4:1b**]

There are many avenues of growth for the church and we will look at the area of
DEEDS OF MERCY [LOVE].

B. *Why* DEEDS OF MERCY [LOVE]?

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus to His disciples: **John 13:35**

Deeds of love and mercy are a clear demonstration that we are Jesus' disciples

1 John 4:7-12

What do we learn from this Scripture?

our DEEDS OF LOVE

1. *prove the genuineness of our faith*= **1 John 3:16-19**
2. *builds up the church in the love of God*=**Jude 20-21**
3. *are a blessing for us*=**Titus 3:8**
4. *causes the world to glorify God*=**Matt. 5:16**
5. *ministers to the Lord Himself*=**Matt. 25:34-40**

Remember the feeding of the five thousand? **Matt. 14:19-20**

*I believe that as we pursue DEEDS OF LOVE more vigorously, we will experience a greater
outpouring of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit*

where more will be filled with the Spirit and

more will be used in the gifts of the Spirit

DO WE NEED ANY MORE MOTIVATION TO MINISTERING TO THE NEEDS AMONG US THAN
THESE??????

C. Who are some of the recipients of DEEDS OF LOVE ?

As we consider DEEDS OF LOVE , we must remember that these are not just "good works"

but are a primary means of declaring the gospel of *God's grace* .

God's redemptive work through the cross and resurrection of the Lord Jesus is our primary purpose through DEEDS OF LOVE

so that through these deeds people will come to experience the grace of God,

Who are the recipients? **James 1:27**

The primary recipients of Mercy Ministries within the church are those who, for various reasons, are in need of special and particular care and love,

During the next several weeks, we hope to be identifying many of these specific needs through covenant groups and other means, so we can become active and effective in identifying and meeting these needs with DEEDS OF LOVE.

D. Who should participate in Deeds of love?

In **Hebrews 10:24** we read: *let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds*

There will be various "levels" of participation but all are called upon to participate:

There are at least two general "levels" of personal involvement:

1. Level **One**: everyone through=prayer, Encouragement, identifying needs and sharing suggestions, giving to "helping hands"
2. Level **two**: those who believe you are called to be personally involved with specific ministry activities such as=*visitation=providing and distributing food=transportation=going to a home to help= counseling=administration*