

An aerial photograph of a river delta, showing a network of channels and white water rapids. The water is a deep blue-green color, and the rapids are a bright white. The overall scene is dynamic and powerful.

**SAFEHARBOR**

**ON MISSION**

**together... finding the good life in Christ.**

**Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.**

**- 1 Corinthians 12:27**

**So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.**

**- Ephesians 2:19-21**

**Don't underestimate the power of the Holy Spirit working through one church in one place. Don't underestimate the power of one believer living in the one place the Lord has set you.**

**The church is the presence of Christ in the world - and through the church and through its people lives are saved. In every corner of the globe, the name of Jesus is praised.**

**Because we have the Spirit, what limit is there to what we can do? People in our neighborhoods need the Lord - people in distant lands need the Lord.**

**So roll up your sleeves. Let's get pumped. The church is alive here at Safe Harbor.**

**How we Fulfill Our Mission:**

**Love the Lord**

**Love Each Other**

**Love Your Neighbor**

**WORSHIP**  
THE LORD

**LOVE**  
ONE ANOTHER

**LOVE**  
YOUR  
NEIGHBOR



## Section 01

# Love The Lord

Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness;  
tremble before Him, all the Earth.

- Psalm 96:9

**When Christians speak of going to church... they are not thinking of a building but of a congregation. The congregation, not the building is holy... The church is holy because the congregation is the house of God.**

**- Edmund Clowney**

**For each section of this mission, you can break down God's commands into three easy to remember words: **time, treasure, and talents.****

## **Loving the Lord with Your Time:**

**Worship the Lord together (Acts 2:42; Acts 20:7)**

**Rest in the Lord (Exodus 20:8-10; Mark 2:24-28)**

**Commune with Him in Prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:17; Matthew 6:6)**

**Consider the Power of His Sacraments (1 Corinthians 11:23-29)**

## **Loving the Lord with Your Treasures:**

**Give Abundantly and Sacrificially (2 Corinthians 8; 2 Corinthians 9:7)**

**Use the Tithe (10%) as a Guide for How to Give (Matthew 23:23; Leviticus 27:30; Malachi 3:8)**

## **Loving the Lord with Your Talents:**

**Serving the Lord in the Church Can Be Done in Many Ways (Ephesians 4:11; 1 Corinthians 12:4-5)**

**Everyone's Service is Important and for the Building up of the Church (1 Corinthians 12:21-31)**

**In Summary: Serve Your Church. Be Here when We Gather - Use Your Gifts and Give to the Lord to Accomplish His Mission.**



# A Quick Guide on Giving



The tithe, which is 10% of your income, is a concept that goes all the way back to Genesis 14. It's reinforced in several Old Testament passages, and Christ himself enforces the principle in Matthew 23 when he criticizes the Pharisees for only tithing, and not caring about other important matters.

What we can discern, however, from the teaching of Paul in his letters to the church, most notably 2 Corinthians, is that giving is a matter of the heart. Some cannot give much at all, think of the widow in Mark 12 and Luke 21 - she gave just two coins, and was commended for it. Others have much to give, and should be generous (Luke 12:48) to what the Lord is doing through his church.

The best approach, then, is to use this principle of the tithe as a wise guide. For most of us, to give 10% of our income to the Lord is not easy - it does cause us to alter our decisions and our budgets - it does pinch a bit! And that's just the point, for as Jesus says, 'where your treasure is, your heart will be also' (Luke 12:34). Give to the Lord and give generously, with cheerfulness. It's not a contest and you won't ever be able to earn the Lord's favor this way, but seek to be one who is quietly faithful and loves to see the church of Christ abounding in kingdom work!

## Section 2

# Love Each Other

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:11

**Stop looking for the perfect church. It does not exist.  
And even if it did exist, the moment you or I joined it, it  
would no longer be perfect.**

**- Nicky Gumbel**

### Time, Treasure, and Talents

This three-fold paradigm still applies to this second part of the Christian life: loving each other.

**Spend Time Together!** Read Colossians 3:12-17 and think of the personal nature it assumes in relationships amongst Christians. We're to challenge each other, encourage each other, and pray for one another.

Being involved in one of our Safe Harbor Ships, our small groups, is the most natural way to be connected to your brothers and sisters.

We also provide Bible study opportunities midweek, and intentional discipleship relationships with older believers.

**Share Your Treasures!** Open your homes to one another. We should be sharing meals, rides, babysitting, and help where it's needed. Take a look at Acts 2:42-47 and read about the high value of community in the early church.



**Share Your Talents!** I loved hearing the story the other day about how some men in this church built a ramp at the home of one of our older members. We've got so much to offer one another, and we should use these talents to serve each other. Some of you are good at building things, other are strong musically, and some others have skills like bookkeeping and organization. Use these gifts to serve the church but you can also use your gifts in service of one another.

# Why Hanging Out is a Spiritual Exercise

**Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.**

abide  
[ə'bid] • verb

**- John 15:4-5**

It's a challenging word to translate: abide. But it is packed full of meaning. Not only does it mean to trust in, to follow - but to abide means to rest in those truths that Christ has shown. When we abide in Christ, we say "that's it; this is all I need. Not only do I follow you, but I cease my restless wanderings looking for other paths to significance. I rest in you alone."

If Jesus asks us to rest in him, should we not allow that practice to inform our own spiritual lives as a church? What would it look like to abide in one another? We are the body of Christ - and there is then great value in just being together. When you have fellowship events where we don't read from Scripture or sing songs of praise, we are still doing something spiritual, something of great value - just abiding in each other and in the finished work of Christ. It's a time for celebration - so be together and thereby strengthen your faith in the Lord.

## Section 3

# Love Your Neighbor

Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

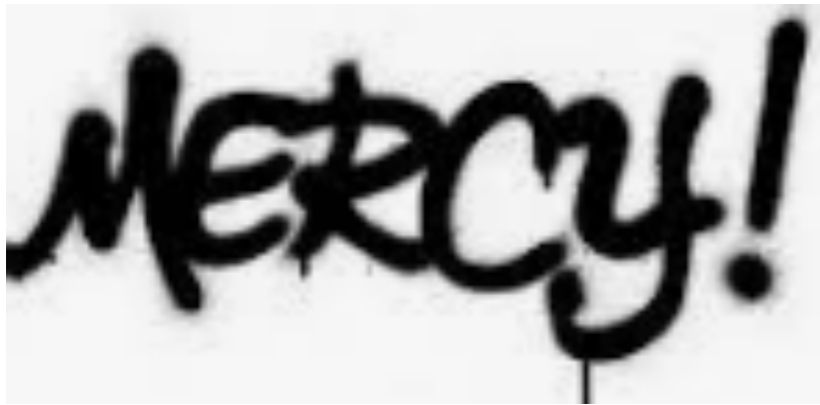
- Matthew 22:37-39

**Sometimes I wonder  
how often the enemy  
(whose attacks are  
meant to suck the  
hope from your  
hearts) has been  
defeated by a loaf of  
warm bread and a  
hearty stew.**

**– Rebecca Reynolds**

## 03 Love Your Neighbor

It should be no surprise to us that when Jesus summarized the law of God, he broke it down into two main ideas: love the Lord, and love your neighbor. There are both vertical (love of God) aspects to your Christian life, and also horizontal (love of neighbor) aspects to your life. And you must be engaged in both. One of the great problems with monastic living in Christian history is that you can't love your neighbor if you live in a tree somewhere. It doesn't fulfill Christ's command: we have neighbors, we have jobs in the secular world, and we have family who need Jesus. We should love on them and be a light in their world. Each believer should be able to demonstrate how they love God, love each other, and love their neighbor.



Read Matthew 25 again. Jesus describes separating the sheep from the goats - and while he is always talking about those who trust in the Lord and those who do not - he characterizes the faithful by those who feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and heal the sick. That's how we are characterized according to Christ. Do we live up to that characterization? We should. Try connecting with **Haven Ministries** or with **Choices Pregnancy Center** as places to get involved in showing mercy, or contact your local school and see how you can help.



A helpful and obvious way to love your neighbor is to know your neighbor. Make a map of your street - do you know their names? Do you know what they care about? Could you invite them over for dinner? Of course you can. You are eating anyway - why not share?



Let's start here. Love your neighbor through **Hospitality**. Remember to be someone of **invitation** - you can invite them to church or your small group, and people of **conversation** - maybe you should talk to that friend about Jesus - you can be someone who **listens** to the deep needs of a friend, and a person of **prayer** - please pray for your neighbors.