

As people living within the Kingdom of God—we don't separate ourselves from the secular world  
We don't move out of the neighborhood into Christian conclaves, apart from the world  
We rebuild in the middle of the rubble and brokenness that is all around us and within us  
In so doing, we join God's heart to redeem all of humanity and all of creation  
In a holistic redemption that reaches every aspect of our lives and world

Jesus' redeeming death and resurrection and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit  
Was not done to just get us to heaven  
It was done to bring heaven to earth—"*Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.* "  
It was done that we could live every mundane and ordinary moment in the Eternal Now  
Jesus' death and resurrection means we can fully participate in the resources of the Eternal Now  
All resources, all power, and the fullness of God is available to us  
The Holy Spirit/Living Christ is at work through us to refigure the broken world and its people  
To the very purposes for which they were created and brought into being  
That which was lost is being restored to them as they return to their intended purpose

Truth is that even though the Kingdom of God is everywhere and is available to all people at all times  
Many do not live connected to the Kingdom of God—they are unaware of its existence  
They benefit from the Kingdom of God only tangentially  
That's why it is so important that we live out the Kingdom of God  
The world is desperate for peace, freedom, hope, life, and way forward in this broken world  
Every time we live out the Kingdom callings and values—we make the Kingdom of God visible  
For people caught in conflict and war—and see it as the only option for them and their country  
Living into our calling as peacemakers is gift—they do not know how to do this  
But we can't do it by sitting on the sidelines and condemning the methods of others  
The world desperately needs peacemakers to take their place in society  
Leading with a Listening ear—Listening to God while engaging the questions  
In so doing we enact Jubilee—we live out the Kingdom of God

For people in jail—whether guilty or innocent—they find themselves trapped in a system  
A system that perpetuates more crimes and takes away freedom  
They yearn for real freedom—the freedom we know within the Kingdom of God  
Living into our calling to set the captive free—we enact Jubilee and the Kingdom of God  
This work takes place in a multitude of ways...  
Working within the system to bring about change to restorative justice  
Teaching non-violent communication  
Making others aware of the problem of mass incarceration  
Spending time with a prisoner and getting to know them and their situation  
Etc...

For people trapped in poverty and see no way out of it—every hope having been crushed  
They have learned to settle for a hand out, however meager and inadequate  
They yearn for a way out of poverty so that they can be free of the oppression  
Living into our calling to bring good news to the poor—we enact Jubilee and Kingdom  
Again, it happens many ways...  
From working at a food bank or soup kitchen to changing laws  
From employing homeless to working to create livable and affordable housing  
From micro-loans to providing child care, and the list goes on...

In all of those ways and more, we bring Jubilee and the Kingdom of God into our world in visible ways  
It matters and it changes things  
We do it with every prayer, every act of kindness, every time we practice goodness  
We do it when we work to change our world  
We do it by living authentically as followers of Jesus every day

1 Corinthians 12:7 has a powerful message—both in the Message Bible and in NRSV...

*Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people! 1 Corinthians 12:7 MSG*

*To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 1 Corinthians 12:7 NRSV*

This is how the Spirit works within us to make Jubilee and Kingdom of God evident and helpful  
It not only "shows who God is" but it is for the "common good"  
The "common good" is our work together—it is what we must do  
Do we put our energy to that which is self-serving? Or simply serves the church?  
Or does our energy—our Spirit work impact the "common good"?  
*We are given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good*

When Jesus began his ministry on earth, he said...

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Luke 4:18-19 NRSV*

As followers of Jesus and citizens of the Kingdom of God—we are called to this as well

We have been given the work of reconciliation in our world—it is our collective work

We live in the midst of a broken world  
It is our collective work to live out reconciliation and transformation for the common good  
To bring about the transformation of the world around us as we are faithful to our callings  
I've said it before and will say it again—the Kingdom of God/Heaven isn't about going to heaven  
It is about bringing heaven to earth—living out the transforming Kingdom of God here  
The Holy Spirit/Living Christ is at work through us to refigure the broken world and its people

*All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:18-21 NRSV*