

A LOVE THAT... SETS US FREE.

T E E N S ' B O O K M A R K

I Care becomes a bookmark it will accompany you this month and help you live this Word of Life.

NICK FROM
HOLLAND



WHEN FACING A
TURNING POINT

've always loved my freedom a lot, and for me that always meant to do whatever I liked.

I love skateboarding with a passion and, during the summer vacation, I stayed all day long at the skate parks.

The group of friends I skated with started to divide up and talk badly about each other, and so I felt I was part of a totally different group. They also started drinking and using drugs.

Some of them drank so much that they couldn't even stand up on the skates.

Others, always drunk, bickered with everyone. I was not drinking yet, but I think I wouldn't have resisted much longer...

One day, the mother of one of the boys understood what was going on, and she came to my house to tell my mom.

While they were talking, I closed myself in my room because I realized I had made a bad choice to hang out with those kids. I knew that if I continued to be part of their group, I would certainly get into trouble.

I was at a crossroads and I had to make a choice: follow these friends or follow that other friend: God. I decided to leave the group. Skateboarding is still my favorite hobby, but now I don't let it enslave me - and I feel truly free!

What do you think of Nick's experience?

«CHRIST,
THE ONE
FOUNDATION
OF THE CHURCH.»
(cf 1 Cor 3:11)

From a commentary by Chiara Lubich – Adapted by the Gen 3 Center



TO THINK

TO WANT

TO LIVE

LIKE HIM

During the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**, Christian churches and communities come together to remember that Christ is their only foundation. They know that **only if they all follow Jesus and live according to the Gospel will they reach full and visible unity among them.**

To base our lives on Christ **means to be one with Him** — to reason as he does, to want only what he wants, and to live as he lived.

But how can we become grounded, rooted in him? How can we be fused into one with him?
By putting the Gospel into practice.



IT IS HIS

WORD

ALIVE

IN ME

If we live according to his words, or better yet, if his words live in us and make us **"living words,"** then we are one with him, strongly bound to him.

We believe that by living this way we will contribute to bringing about unity among all Christians.
Just like our body needs to breathe to stay alive, so the soul finds its source of life in living the Word of God.



LOVE

AND DO

AS YOU

WILL

Living the Word **sets us free** from human conditioning. It is a **source of joy**, simplicity, fullness of life and light. It helps us to follow Christ and little by little to become like him.

Saint Augustine once said, **"Love and do as you will."** In effect he was summarizing the law of love of the Gospel **BECAUSE BY LOVING WE CAN'T GO WRONG. LOVE WILL LEAD US TO FULLY CARRY OUT THE WILL OF GOD.**