

Let's Live Like This!

A «dive»
into joy!

Nicolás (Chile)

In the summer I often went to visit my grandmother, because in her apartment building there's a big swimming pool, and sometimes I invited my friends for a swim there.

Usually I would just pass by my grandmother's apartment to say hello and give her a quick kiss, because I really don't like being with elderly people.

Then one day I heard inside me a voice saying that I shouldn't act like this and that I have to love her more. So I went to her apartment, and instead of going right to the pool, I stayed with her and asked her questions about her life. Amazingly, I wasn't bored!

I felt that when I gave her a kiss after that conversation, something was different between us, and inside my heart I experienced a great joy.



I COMMIT MYSELF:

TO SHARE

THE JOY AND PAIN

OF OTHERS

WORD OF LIFE | 04

«I have become all things to all people »
(1 Cor 9, 22)

The apostle Paul wrote this sentence to the community of Corinth, to explain why he acted with humility and respect toward those who doubted or even denied that he was an apostle.

To give witness to this new lifestyle, Paul made himself "one" with all kinds of people, to the point of becoming one of them, so as to bring them the new life and joy of the Gospel.

He had no illusions, he knew very well that only some would respond to his love. However, he kept loving everyone and put himself at their service just like Jesus did.

"Make yourself one, share"

Chiara Lubich summed up this phrase of Paul with the expression, "make yourself one" with others; "live what the other person is living." She said:

«When someone weeps, we should weep with them. And if someone laughs, we too rejoice. In this way the cross is divided and borne by many shoulders, and joy is multiplied and shared by many hearts ... Making ourselves one with our neighbor for love of Jesus, with the love of Jesus, until our neighbor...will want to make him or herself one with us, and will share in a mutual exchange of help, ideals, projects, affections».

Living this way does not mean that we give up our beliefs or convictions, or approve of any kind of behavior in other people. No, we keep our values and our way of seeing things and make our choices according to what we believe.

To explain making ourselves one we could also say "put yourself in the other person's shoes." This is not a sign of weakness, nor an easy way to avoid conflicts. It requires a person who is free and who chooses to be at the service of others. It demands courage and determination.

In this way, we will help to bring people together as brothers and sisters, which is God's dream for humanity, and the reason for which Jesus gave his life.

{ "Today, before judging a situation, I will try to put myself in the shoes of the other person " }