

Let's live like this!

A shared commitment

By MIRCO, ALEX, MARIO and
VINCENZO from northern Italy

We are a part of a group of teenagers from a city in northern Italy and a while ago, we decided to live the New Commandment of Jesus together. We want to love one another as he loved us so that we can build a piece of the united world right here, among us. To be concrete about it, every two weeks we meet at my house to spend some time together and share with each other how we each tried to love and live the words of the Gospel in the past two weeks.

Sharing our experiences is very important for us. In fact, it helps to reinforce the unity among us and overcome any difficult moments.

By trying to put the words of the Gospel into practice, we discover how beautiful it is to love anyone who comes our way. For example, we give up our seat on the bus to an elderly person, or speak to a person who is waiting with us on the corner for the light to change, or help a classmate who can't resolve a math problem or who is going through a tough time at school, or give special attention to a classmate who tends to bully others, or love our brothers or sisters who share the bedroom with us, or, even though this seems strange, we try to love the teachers we don't really like.

Of course, our experiences won't be written up in the history books! But the joy of unity that is created with these other people and among us, and that we want to share with hundreds of other teens, repays us 100 times over for all the effort we sometimes have to put into building it.



I AM COMMITTED TO

SHARING WITH

ALL IN

MY COMMUNITY

MY PLEDGE TO LOVE

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«Live in love» (Eph 5:2)

The apostle Paul directs this invitation to the Christian who live in Ephesus. It is the summary and the conclusion of all he just wrote to them about how to live as Christians. He told them they need to **leave aside their "old self" and live as a "new person," by being truthful and sincere with one another, by not stealing from others, by forgiving and doing good to everyone...in other words, by "living in love."**

What is the model we need to follow to know how to love? **Jesus! He died for everyone**, even for his enemies, even for those who were crucifying him. He took care of the poor and the little ones, those who were sick or rejected by others. He loved his friends very much and he had a special love for his disciples, being close when they needed him...

He never held back his love, reaching even the extreme point of giving up his life on the cross.

And now he asks all of us to share his same kind of love, and to love others as he loved them.

Since the invitation to "live in love" is addressed to the whole community, it would be good to help one another to live it. We can start by finding an opportunity to declare our love to one another once again – with our friends, our relatives or with the members of our Christian community. We can express in words our desire to go ahead together.

"I will find an opportunity when all of us in my Christian community can openly declare our love for one another."

We can **share the experiences** of what happened when we loved, so that we can learn from one another how to do it.

We can tell those who understand our way of life about our failures or mistakes along our journey, so that we **can correct our ways**.

Also praying together can give us light and strength to go ahead.

United among us and with Jesus in our midst we will be able to race all the way to the end of our "Holy Journey." We will sow the seeds of love around us and reach our goal – who is Jesus, "Love" in person!

"I will share the experiences of how I loved"