

LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR ONLINE



How to Share God's Love in Digital Spaces

THINK ABOUT YOUR INTERACTIONS WITH OTHERS ONLINE OVER THE PAST WEEK.

If you're like most people, there's a good chance you encountered some unsavory individuals... folks you wanted to write off or ignore. You may have even wanted to tell them off or put them in their place – and maybe act a little unsavory yourself.

We've all encountered moments when it's a struggle to show love to people in the comment sections of your life.

But when Jesus says to love your neighbor as yourself, what does that mean for the people you meet online?

In this guide, you'll discover:

- Why compassion is so hard to find in digital spaces
- What it looks like to extend love and dignity to others
- The unique dynamics shaping your online interactions
- 6 practical tips for putting your love into action online



LET'S DIVE IN!

WHERE LOVE IS RADICAL AND RARE

Some digital spaces seem filled with negativity and vitriol. People can be more prone to vent, attack, and sow division online than they would in person.

This reality makes the call to love others online more urgent than ever.

COUNTERING THE NEGATIVITY

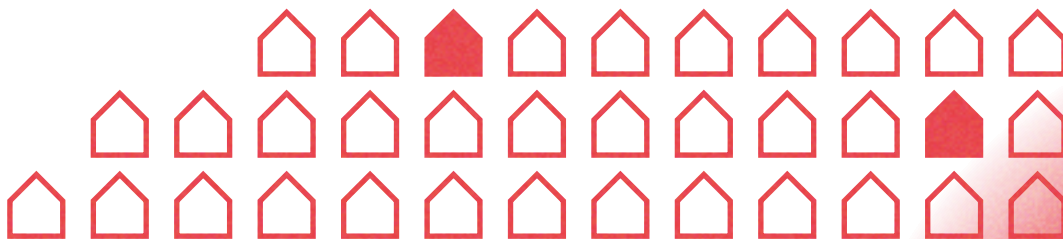
As a follower of Jesus, you have the opportunity to:

- be light in the darkness
- bring hope where there's despair
- love where others attack

Loving others is a simple concept.

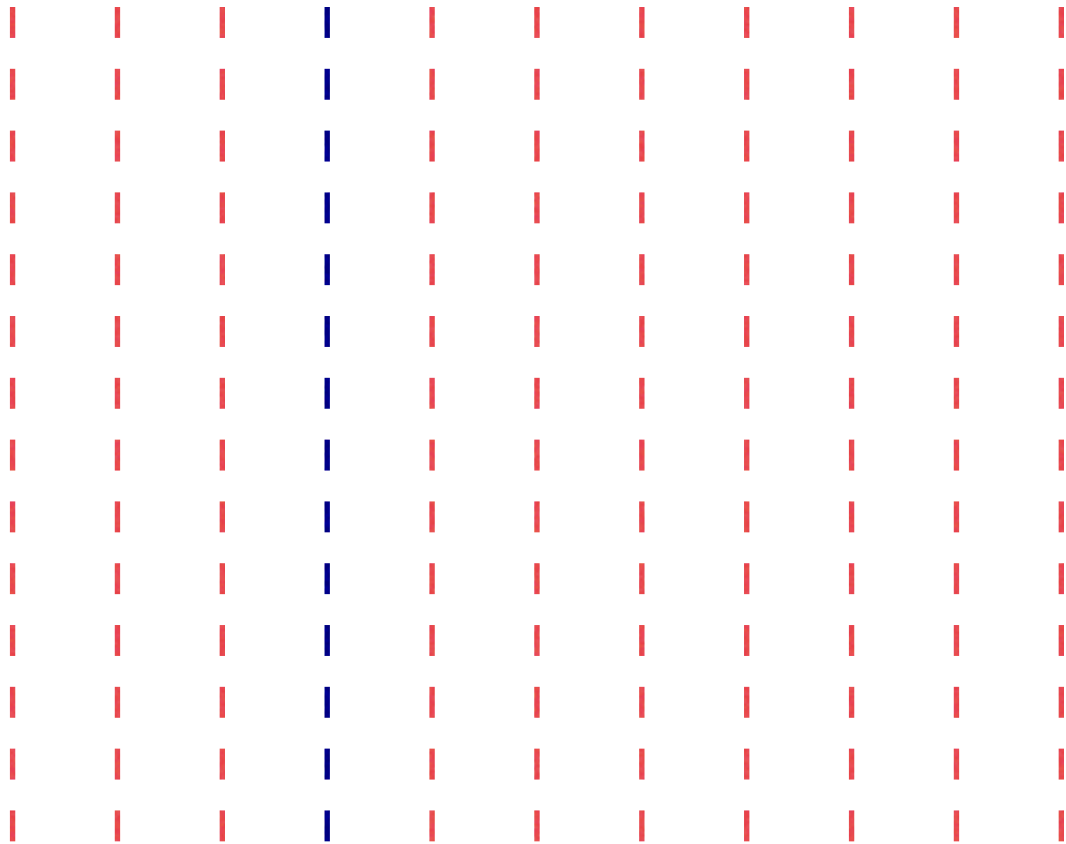
But online, it's both radical and rare.

In digital spaces where it's so easy to get caught up in waves of negativity, Christians are called to show love, offer empathy, and create genuine connection with others.



STANDING OUT WITH LOVE

We are to model the love of God, who reached out to humanity by sending Jesus to embrace us in connection, safety, and comfort.



Likewise, Jesus' call to love our neighbors is about inviting others into positive connections. We extend empathy instead of nursing grudges.

Sharing the radical, rare love of God online will stand out beautifully in contrast to the digital norm of negativity, anger, and division.

6 WAYS TO PUT YOUR LOVE INTO ACTION ONLINE

Which is your default mode?

- Do you quickly react when you're online?
- Or do you pause before responding with patience?

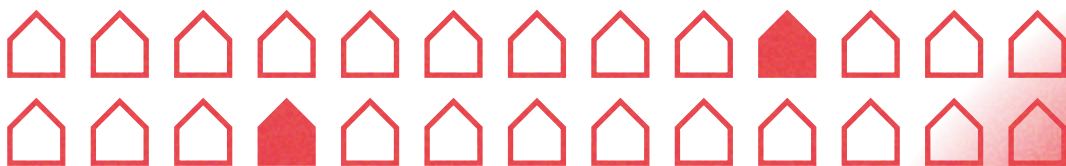
If you're like most people, you react fast. Because online, we often move at breakneck speeds, often responding without thinking and quickly moving on.

But this doesn't set you up very well for building connections and offering God's love to others, does it?

Here are 6 helpful tips to help you slow down, put love into action, and connect meaningfully with others in digital spaces.

1. PRAY

Before you scroll, take a moment to ask God to show you His love and compassion for the individuals you'll encounter. Pray for wisdom to control your words, and ask the Lord to open your eyes to see opportunities to bring light and life into digital spaces.



2. PAUSE

In this fast-paced digital world, practice patience by pausing before you respond to someone. Taking a deep breath can create space for you to hear God's voice before you act and to consider how you can bring grace and love into an interaction.

3. SEEK INDIVIDUALS

Jesus addressed the crowds, but He often offered love and guidance one on one. Prioritize individual interactions instead of public platforms. And when you do speak up in shared digital spaces, keep in mind that you won't always know who your audience is, so it's important to lead with compassion and generosity.

4. ASK QUESTIONS

Jesus often asked open-ended questions, inviting people into a place of connection and listening. Asking questions also breaks down defensiveness – because all people want to be understood. Encourage dialogue, connection, and curiosity with thoughtful questions and active listening.

5. SHOW HOSPITALITY

Even in digital spaces, you can practice hospitality. Work to create safe spaces where people feel warmth and welcome. Just as you would to a guest in your home, give others the benefit of the doubt and assume the best in them. Respond to others with kindness and help them feel valued, even when they leave hurtful comments.

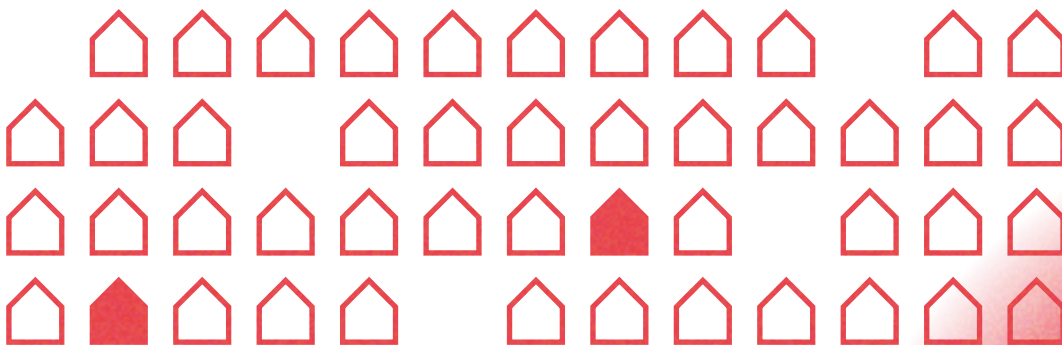
6. EXTEND GRACE

Recognize that you don't always know what someone else is facing. Their toxic comments may simply reflect hidden struggles or painful circumstances. Choose to extend them grace rather than judgment.



TRY IT OUT

Start with prayer, then hop online and put these tips into practice to help you engage in ways that build connection and show God's love to your digital neighbors.

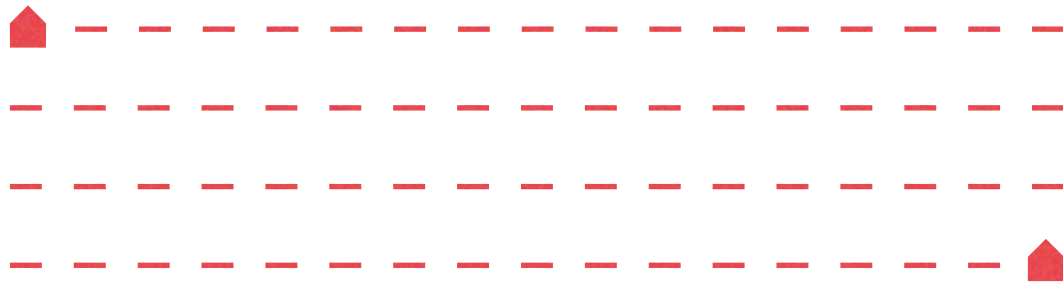


YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

In a digital world where everything moves fast, it's easy to ignore the humanity in others.

But every single digital interaction is an opportunity for you to share God's love with someone longing for the respect and compassion every image bearer deserves.

Equipped with what you've learned, you can show up and make a difference as you love your digital neighbors.



FIND MORE PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR DIGITAL MINISTRY

— — — — — Discover more free resources at thred.org

