



Study Guide

# LOVEWELL

CRSWLK

| End Statements

## **CROSSWALK**

# **END STATEMENT STUDY GUIDE**

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# End Statement 1

Crosswalk will be a community of belonging

**INTRODUCTION - The Crosswalk End statements are designed to be prescriptive for our community of faith. Each statement defines who we are and who we wish to be, in line with our values and Christ's calling. This guide is designed to help you wrestle with what each statement means and how you can live it out personally and corporately. This is our call.**

## OPEN

If the Church is the body of Christ, if every person is created in God's image, and if Christ came to seek and save everyone (Mark 10:10), then why would Crosswalk need to state that we will be a community of belonging? Isn't belonging a given in the kingdom of God on earth as well as in heaven?

## HEAD (digging into the passage)

- Read together as a group Romans 12:3-5 and Galatians 3:28-29 and share any thoughts, insights, or impressions you had as you read through the passage
- In Romans 12:3, the apostle Paul gives a "warning" (NLT) for us in how we think of ourselves. Knowing that his audience had both Jews (the called children of Israel) and Gentiles (anyone not born a Jew), why do you think he had to "warn" them?
- How might Romans 12:3 tie in to what Paul said earlier in this letter to the Romans in 3:23?

- Paul talks in several places about the metaphor of the body of Christ (see also 1 Corinthians 12:14-27). Why do you think Paul kept going back to this metaphor to describe the church?

- Reflect together on the beauty of the body as the church; different parts, different functions, all working together. What would the nose do? The ear? The feet? The heart? The brain?

## HEART (lessons for us today/application)

- Where are some spaces in your life that you have truly felt like you belong? Where have you not felt welcomed? How did those spaces differ from each other?
- Why do we have such a hard time creating a space of belonging even in church, the one place where we should all feel safe? How did Jesus go about creating safe spaces and what did those spaces look like, who was there?
- Can you think of some practical steps we can take to "get off our high horse" and recognize that in Christ, we all

- Paul speaks to unity in Galatians 3:29. Jesus prayed for us to be united in John 17:20-23. How can we be “one” when we have different opinions, backgrounds, perspectives, etc...?

- What are some of the characteristics of a church that you have always wanted

**LIVING WORDS for YOUR WEEK** (carry these words with you as a reminder)  
 “So it is with Christ’s body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.” (Romans 12:5, NLT)

# End Statement 2

Crosswalk will be a community where people learn and grow in an authentic relationship with God.

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## OPEN

Describe a meaningful and significant relationship you had with someone growing up and what made it so special to you. What would you consider an inauthentic relationship with God to be and look like, and how do you see that manifesting itself in church?

## HEAD (digging into the passage)

- Read together 2 Timothy 1:5-7, John 14:6, John 15:5, Micah 6:8 and share any thoughts, insights, or impressions you had as you read through the passage.
- How do you think Lois and Eunice passed their faith on to Timothy?
- Jesus statement in John 14:6 became a title for early followers of Jesus. Before they were known as Christians, they were known as "followers of the Way." As hard as it might be to put into words, how would you define "the Way" of Jesus?
- In John 15, Jesus said to "remain" or "abide" in Him to produce, or grow, fruit? What fruit? (see also Galatians 5:22-23)

- Micah 6:8 is full of action verbs; do, love, walk. How might the life following Jesus lead to action?

## HEART (lessons for us today/application)

- The Greek word Paul uses in 2 Timothy 1:5 for "sincere" or "genuine" faith is the word, *anupokritos*. It also means "without hypocrisy." Why do you think so many Christians are viewed as hypocrites by others, and how do we avoid being "phonies" in our walk with Jesus?
- John 14:6 and John 15:5 are part of the same message of Jesus; He is the Way so abide in Him. How do you and I abide/remain following His Way when nearly everything in our world screams at us to live life differently?
- Following "the Way" as a community means helping each other stay on the path of Jesus. Have you ever witnessed, or even read, about a community that did this well? What did they do? What are some practical ways we might help each other do this without sounding judgmental or critical?

- If possible, reach out to someone who made an impact in your life and/or with your faith this week to thank them. Ask God to show you someone that you can enter into a similar relationship with this year.

**LIVING WORDS for YOUR WEEK** (carry these words with you as a reminder)  
 “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6, NLT)



# End Statement 3

Crosswalk will be relevant in living out the ways of Jesus in our place and time.

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## OPEN

When you think of "the ways of Jesus," what images or stories come to mind?

## HEAD (digging into the passage)

- Read together as a group Matthew 5:1-16, 43-48 and John 13:34-35, and share any thoughts, insights, or impressions you had as you read through the passage
- In the blessings/beatitudes, there is often a reversal; the poor get the kingdom, those who mourn are comforted, the humble inherit, the hungry are filled. How were the ways of Jesus a reversal or different from the ways of the world in which He lived?
- Jesus said that we were salt of the earth. What are some qualities of salt and how can a follower of Jesus practice those qualities in our world today (relevancy)?
- Matthew 5:48 says, "be perfect." In context, what do you think Jesus meant we should be perfect in?
- Jesus said in John 13 to love as He loved

us. What are some of the tangible ways that Jesus loved us?

## HEART (lessons for us today/application)

- No one before Jesus had ever admonished others to love their enemies. Especially in today's world where there is so much divisiveness and anger, how do we practice love even to those we disagree with, or our enemies?
- What are some things you see professed Christians do that you think are irrelevant, and what do you think a more relevant response would be if applicable? What are practical things we can do to be more relevant, in touch, with the needs of those around us?
- So many "acts of kindness" performed by others in today's world seem to have strings attached; "free car wash-donations encouraged," "I raked your yard so here's a pamphlet I'd like you to read." Is it possible, or even ok, to love on other people without trying to convert them to Christianity every time? How can our actions plant seeds of Jesus'?

**HANDS** (or Reach-in light of this study, what are we to do, how do we respond)

**LIVING WORDS for YOUR WEEK** (carry these words with you as a reminder)

"So now I am giving you a new commandment...Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." (John 13:34-35, NLT)



# End Statement 4

Crosswalk will be a community that lives beyond herself by caring and advocating for the powerless, oppressed and abandoned.

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## OPEN

We are called to be “salt and light” in this world (Matt. 5:13-16); to be a priesthood of all believers who looks after “widows and orphans” (James 1:27); and a people of God who “learn to do good, seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause...” (Isaiah 1:17). So...a couple questions as you begin...how salty are you? How much light do you shine? How do you uphold these weighty calls? How does Crosswalk live out these standards?

**HEAD** (or Reflect-digging into the passage)

- Read Proverbs 31:8-9. Share any initial thoughts, insights, or impressions you had as you read through the passage.
- Proverbs 31 is an interesting chapter with an interesting character—King Lemuel. Nothing else is written or known about King Lemuel in all of scripture aside from this mention. There is some belief/speculation that he was Hezekiah, other Jewish legends identify

him as Solomon; which would mean this motherly advice would be coming from his mother Bathsheba, but there is no evidence for that. Regardless, King Lemuel's mother is writing him and cautioning him on several things (vs.1-5). Are these words still applicable today? What words of caution would you give to your child if they held a position of high regard and responsibility?

- The text says “speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves...” (v.8) In this context it can also mean “serve as an advocate in judgment” (think “you must defend”). In what ways are those two statements similar? In what ways are they different?

**HEART** (or Recalibrate-wrestling with it's lessons for us today/application)

- Has anyone ever advocated for you? How/when did someone stand up or speak up on your behalf? What was that experience like? How did it make you feel?
- What does “speaking up” or “defending”

the rights of the voiceless and destitute look like in your life?

- There is an element of “judgment” here which signifies the legal rights or pleas of the people. “Judge” here could be misunderstood to mean “condemn” but a better understanding of this would be “advocacy” so “plead the cause” is a better translation. What issues of injustice in your life, community, and church need your attention—or need you to advocate and plead the cause this week?

**HANDS** (or Reach-in light of this study, what am I to do or how do I respond)

- Our end statement says we strive to “live beyond ourselves.” In a culture and society that is extremely “I” focused (the current generation of young people has been dubbed “Generation Me” due to high levels of individualism and narcissistic tendencies), how do we

embody this statement and truly live beyond ourselves?

- What practical steps can you take in your life today to care for the poor, advocate for the powerless, and champion the cause of the oppressed and abandoned? What are actionable efforts Crosswalk can engage (or continue to engage) in?

**LIVING WORDS for YOUR WEEK** (carry these words with you as a reminder)

Stand up for those who can't stand;  
Speak up for those who can't speak;  
Care for the oppressed and powerless;  
Advocate for the abandoned because...  
“You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world...so let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” (Matt. 5:13-16)

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# End Statement 5

Crosswalk will be a community that exemplifies servant leadership.

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## OPEN

Is "servant-leadership" an oxymoron? How does a leader (or a person in authority) serve if they are called and equipped to lead? Don't those things contradict each other?! Obviously we are being a bit facetious because we know servant-leadership is an absolutely critical way of life—and we say that because it is The Jesus Way! Jesus had a serve-first mindset that focused on serving instead of commanding, empowering and uplifting instead of asserting authority; He always looked to build up and never tear down and turned the traditional power leadership model upside down. Crosswalk strives to live in this way—let's look at Christ's example and see what we can learn from it today.

**HEAD** (or Reflect-digging into the passage)

- Read John 13:1-17 and Matthew 23:11-12. Share any initial thoughts, insights, or impressions you had as you read

through the passage.

- In John 13 we see an incredible example of servant leadership. Christ, the King of Heaven, Creator of the Universe, The Almighty, stoops low and assumes the role of servant. Why was it so important for Christ to set this example for His followers?
- What do you think Christ knew that the disciples couldn't seem to figure out?
- In Matthew 23, Jesus shares these strong words, "whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted." How does Jesus challenge the disciples idea of what a "follower of Christ" means?

**HEART** (or Recalibrate-wrestling with it's lessons for us today/application)

- Compare the path to greatness set forth by the world and the path taught by Jesus. What do these two views of greatness teach us about the two views of the Kingdom?
- In your life, who has exemplified

- The full extent of Christ's love for His disciples was not merely seen in this humble act of service (washing feet) but rather in His sacrificial death for them (and us all) on the cross. The message for us all then is not only to be willing to humble ourselves in self-effacing service, but to be willing to give up our lives for one another. That is a lot to process—even the disciples didn't fully understand and receive that message! As you examine your own heart, what things are you aware of that you need to let go of in order to live for, and give more to, your brothers and sisters in Christ?

- How will you put Jesus' teachings on

- The practice of “foot washing” is not as pertinent to us as it was to Jesus and His followers in their day. What practical applications can we draw from the principles Christ displayed? What would that look like in our lives today?

- True greatness lies in the realm of service...the first shall be last and the last shall be first. "The greatest among you must be a servant." "Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up."



