



| **Sunday, December 9**

What then must we do?

Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:1-2

When the Russian writer Leo Tolstoy moved from his country home to the city, the urban poverty shocked him. As a man of faith and social conscience, he struggled with how to help the poor. As a result, he wrote the book, "What Then Must We Do?" The title refers to Luke 3:10, when the crowds asked John the Baptist what they must do to show the sincerity of their repentance. In his book, Tolstoy went far beyond John the Baptist's instruction to share with those in need, but his proposals were impractical and ignored by those he sought to influence.

In a world where people continue to endure hardship and suffering, we have hope. As followers of Jesus, we have a clear answer when we ask ourselves, "What must we do?" As Paul tells us, we are to "live in love." And because Jesus came into the world, we're not left on our own to figure out what that means. We have the ultimate role model to whom we can look for guidance as we act in this world as beloved children of God.

Lord, show me this day how to share your love with those around me.

- Peter Eckstrom