



How can we  
**answer**  
**Christ's call**  
 to His 21st  
 century  
 church:

**Build peace and social justice.** Jesus' life proclaimed that human rights, dignity and peace come from God - we are stewards of these gifts. **Read Matthew 15:1-12, Mark 10:17-25, Luke 4:18-19 and John 8:1-11**

**Answer Jesus' call!** Reaching out to people with HIV and AIDS, and their families, friends and caregivers, is a way for each of us to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ.

**Reflect on your attitude.** HIV and AIDS confronts us with sexuality, disease, discrimination and death - issues we may fear and try to avoid. But, if we are to love as Jesus loved, we each must face the issues of AIDS.

**Jesus responded with love to all people in need.**

Today, Jesus' loving presence continues to guide and inspire us. "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

- **Matthew 25:40**

**Jesus calls on us to be loving.**

God's love is boundless. For us to experience and share God's love, we must not limit our love. **Read Matthew 25:31-46, Mark 3:1-5, Luke 6:37-38 and Romans 13:8-10**

**Witness to God's plan for salvation.** Through Jesus' death and resurrection, believers are given eternal life. We are called to share this message with others. **Read Matthew 20:26-28, Mark 4:14-20, Luke 15:11-32 and John 3:16-18**

**Love our neighbors as ourselves.**

Jesus' words and deeds inspire us to love as he loved, to respond to those in need as Jesus did. **Read Matthew 22:34-40, Mark 12:28-34, Luke 10:25-37 and John 13:34-35**

"And they shall know that we are  
 Christians by our love."  
 - John 13:34-35



**FAITH Coalition**  
 Knoxville, Tennessee  
**Contact Samaritan Ministry**  
**865.450.1000 x827**



Faith-Based  
 Approach  
 & Initiative To Help  
 Reduce HIV/AIDS

To find an HIV testing site near you,  
 text your zip code to **KNOWIT**.

*Thanks to AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
 for much of the content of this brochure.*

# Faith Responds to AIDS



# Should we believe that AIDS is a punishment for sin?



**NO.** The Bible tells us of a man born blind, not because of his sins nor those of his parents, as people of his day believed, but so that the glory of God could be revealed. Jesus ministered to the blind man to show God's powers and compassion. As Christians, we are also faced with the challenge of showing the power of God's love and compassion. Christ no longer physically walks this earth. We must become His hands and feet here. We can sow the love and compassion of God through our caring for people with AIDS.

**John 9:1-4**

## What is AIDS?

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

## What causes it?

HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) enters the body's immune system, which defends our body from illness. That's why people with HIV become infected with many diseases that do not harm the rest of us.

## As a Christian, why should I minister to people with AIDS?

As Christians, we are given the charge by Christ to love the Lord, our God, with all our being; our second responsibility is to love our neighbor as ourselves.

**Luke 10:27**

## By ministering to people with AIDS, will I become infected?

NO. HIV is transmitted by blood contact through the exchange of body fluids (semen, vaginal fluid, or breast milk of pregnant women). There is no known case of anyone contracting HIV from hugging, kissing, sharing eating utensils or any casual contact with an HIV positive person.

## How can we become infected with HIV?

By having unprotected sex or sharing needles while injecting drugs.

## What can we do as Christians to stop the spread of HIV?

The Bible teaches us that if we are unmarried, we

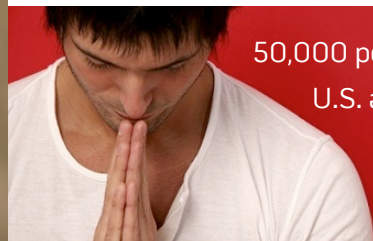
should abstain from sex. This is the safest method of protection from HIV. If one is sexually active, the next safest thing is monogamy (when two people have sex only with one another). Science has proven that when a latex condom is used correctly, it prevents the spread of HIV during sexual intercourse. The Bible also teaches us that our bodies are the temple of God, and we should keep them free of harmful drugs. If you must continue injecting drugs, never share needles with anyone.

## What types of needs do people with HIV/AIDS have?

**Physical:** They may feel very weak and tired. People with AIDS may waste away from cancers, lung infections and other illnesses. **Emotional:** They often experience intense feelings of anger, loneliness, depression, guilt, grief, discrimination and fear of being unloved or abandoned. **Spiritual:** They often feel a deep need for hope, love and peace with God, family and friends.

## Why do people with HIV and AIDS need compassion?

Certain fears have limited our response to the needs of people with HIV/AIDS. In Jesus' time, lepers and others who were ill or disabled were also treated as outcasts because of these same fears. But Jesus' response was full of compassion, healing and acceptance - not condemnation, fear or rejection. Jesus set the example for us to follow. All who were sick with various kinds of diseases were brought to him. He laid hands on them and they were cured.



50,000 people in the U.S. are infected with HIV each year.

» Higher rates of AIDS cases and death occur in the black community. » AIDS has caused physical, emotional, spiritual and financial devastation within the black community. » 57% of the people in the U.S. living with HIV are African American. » In 2010, African Americans made up only 12% of the US population, but had 44% of all new HIV infections. »