

**Crossville Church
of Christ**
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Live audio streaming
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COMPASS

**Using God's Word to Chart The Course
Of A Congregation**

For live video streaming see Website
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Elders:

Frank Bohannon
Jonathan Loveday
Larry McDuffee
Brian McLaughlin
Jon Tatum

Deacons:

Jim Bell
Kyle Fairman
Mike Isaacson
Doug Loveday
Don Napier
Tom Parham
Mark Roberts
Jason Wyatt
Jerry Wood

Ministers:

Alan Judd
Ken Mears

Missionaries: (India)

Don Iverson
Jim Waldron

Service Times:

Sunday Bible Study	9 AM
Sunday Worship	10 AM
	6 PM
Wednesday	6 PM

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Ladies Bible Class

Tuesdays 11 AM

Prayer Meeting

Tuesdays 10 AM

Joyful Generation

(Youth Devotional & fellowship)
1st Sunday 7 PM

POLISHING THE PULPIT

(PTP) 365 Audio/Visual Library

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January 27, 2019

“And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.”

Ephesians 5:2 KJV



COURAGEOUS LOVE

WHERE IS THE ACCESS POINT?

Alan Judd

The question serving as the title for this article is one you address more often than you probably realize. It may be asked more simply and directly: where are they getting in at or where is it getting in at?

The 'they' or the 'it' may stand for a variety of things. Amy and I have lived in a couple of older homes in our married life. We love many features of older homes including the observable craftsmanship of custom woodworking in moldings, banisters, arches, facings, and other interior and exterior details of this sort. These add character and reflect charm that is sometimes missing from homes of recent age which were meant to be built as quickly and in the most cost-efficient manner.

However, modern homes excel older homes in one very important way. Modern homes are generally much "tighter." The windows, doors, and foundation elements are insulated and joined together well to the structure and this contributes to greater energy efficiency. Cold air stays out and warm air stays inside the home in the winter time and warm air stays out and cold air stays inside the home in the summer time. An added benefit is that pests, rodents, and critters have fewer ways to get in. That is, they have fewer access points to use in their attempts to invade your dwelling. I have spent much time in basements, crawlspaces, and attics trying to answer the question: "Where are they (mice, bugs, etc.) getting in at?"

Once the access point was discovered and blocked, the problem was usually eliminated. By extension, this same concern about the danger posed by unguarded access points is why you need a firewall and antivirus software on your computer. Otherwise, hackers and other bad characters can access and use your computer for nefarious purposes. Similarly, our President is petitioning our legislators for funds in order to build a wall across our nation's southern border. Why? He has made the case, and made it convincingly in my opinion, that without some deterrent criminal elements have been using our open southern perimeter to bring all sorts of harmful things into our country for many years. Yes, I know not all who seek to enter our nation do so with evil intent, but a system is in place for them to do this legally. Without delving further into the political or social ramifications of this issue, let's proceed to see if we cannot make a spiritual parallel with the idea of an access point.

I suggest temptation is the way Satan attempts to gain an access point to our lives. Just like the above examples suggest, he is looking for an easy way inside your heart, mind, and soul. How does he do this? Some like Judas Iscariot may give him an access point through greed and he might exploit that through temptation. Others might struggle with illicit physical desires—food, drink, sex, etc. and through these provide the evil one an access point.

Examine your life and look for weak points that could serve as access points for the devil. When you find them, then do what is necessary to close them. This seems to be what Romans 13:14 is teaching: "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts." Position Christ at your weak access points. Hide God's Word in your heart—Psalm 119:11. Don't give our enemy an easy access point into your life! Keep him out!

PURSUE PEACE

Adrian Judd

Have you ever wanted something really badly? You thought you just had to obtain that item, acquire that grade, or develop that relationship. As kids, we make it really easy for our parents to understand what we “must” have when we tell them, “Give me!” As we grow older that feeling of “give me” usually does not go away. We just have a different target in mind when we aim our arrow of “give me.” When we hit that magical age of sixteen, what do most of us want? We have to have a car, of course! You might prefer a jeep or truck instead, but some motorized vehicle *must* find its way into your possession.

God, in His awesome wisdom, created within us feelings of strong desire to pursue different things. Many times we are drawn to merely physical objects. This is not always a bad thing. However, when we examine God’s Word, there are certain attributes God wants us to pursue and incorporate into our lives. One of those attributes God wants us to pursue in our lives is peace. Jesus said in Matthew 5:9: *“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”*

First, we need to study about peace breaking. The devil is the ultimate peace breaker. Satan promotes chaos and division, tries to have people be in conflict with each other, and endeavors for people to be in conflict with God. Unfortunately, it is easy to observe how the devil succeeds in disrupting peace.

Ask yourself, “Am I a peace breaker?” If we gossip about someone to other people, we are being a peace breaker. If we tear someone down to make ourselves look good, we are not promoting peace. We are to bear each other’s burdens according to Galatians 6:2. If someone trusts and confides in us, we should not share that information in a way to hurt or harm them. When we meddle in someone’s business, gossip, or tear someone down, we are not acting like peacemakers, but we are acting like Satan. I do not want to be in the same category as the devil or be guilty of behaving as he does, do you?

Next, we have to realize God is a God of peace, as 2 Thessalonians 3:16 teaches. Consequently, His Word, the Gospel, is a message of peace according to Ephesians 6:15. We cannot have true peace until we obey the gospel and live by it faithfully. Since Christians are to be like God, He expects us to be peacemakers.

Being a peacemaker will not happen by accident. It will require that we put others and their needs ahead of our own. Jesus taught us to do this in Matthew 7:12, which is often described as the Golden Rule. This command will help bring about peace if followed, but it requires love and sacrifice. Many are not willing to pay the price to be peacemakers, but we should try to be peacemakers when possible. Romans 12:18 instructs us to live peaceably as much as it depends on us. Sometimes peace is not possible, but that is something to explore in another article.

Do you need more peace in your life? Instead of blaming others for the chaos and division, examine your life and see what you can do to promote peace. Never forget that Christians have the promise of God’s peace that passes all understanding according to Philippians 4:7. Be a peacemaker!