

Knowing My Responsibility

There are responsibilities for believers that when assumed and lived out; glorify God, represent Him accurately to the world, and extend His love and compassion to them through us.

Matthew 22:36-40 (NLT) “Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?”

37 Jesus replied, “You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ **38** This is the first and greatest commandment. **39** A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ **40** The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

We have a responsibility to Love

Acts 26:20 (NLT) I preached first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that all must repent of their sins and turn to God—and prove they have changed by the good things they do.

I preached that all:

- Must repent of their sins
- Must turn to God
- Must prove they have changed by the good things they do.

We have a responsibility to Live

Acts 11:25-26 (NLT) Then Barnabas went on to Tarsus to look for Saul. **26** When he found him, he brought him back to Antioch. Both of them stayed there with the church for a full year, teaching large crowds of people. (It was at Antioch that the believers^[a] were first called Christians.)

How?

Micah 6:8 (NKJV) He has shown you, O man, what *is* good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?

What does the LORD require of you?

He-God has already told you in his word, with what you ought to come before him. - John Wesley’s notes

1. To do justly

To render to every one their due, superiors, equals, inferiors, to be equal to all, and oppress none, in body, goods or name; in all your dealings with men carry a chancery in your own beasts, and do according to equity. - John Wesley's notes

To do justly; to give to all their due.

- 1) To God his due; your heart, your body, soul, and spirit; your wisdom, understanding, judgment. "To love him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and your neighbor as yourself." This is God's due and right from every man.
- 2) You are to give your neighbor his due; to do to him as you would that he should do to you, never working ill to him.
- 3) You are to give to yourself your due; not to deprive your soul of what God has provided for it; to keep your body in temperance, sobriety, and chastity; avoiding all excesses, both in action and passion.

– Adam Clarke's Commentary

2. To love mercy

To love mercy-To be kind, merciful and compassionate to all, not using severity towards any. Walk humbly with your God-Keep up a constant fellowship with God, by humble, holy faith. - John Wesley's notes

You are to love mercy; not only to do what justice requires, but also what mercy, kindness, benevolence, and charity require. – Adam Clarke's Commentary

Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.

The English equivalent of the Greek word used for merciful is compassionate. Its basic meaning was two fold: (1) To give help to the afflicted and to rescue the helpless, compassion in action. (2) To soften or deter judgment on the guilt-ridden.

When we look at others we need to remember where we have come from.

Failure to show mercy can be an ego thing but Jesus by word and deed put it into perspective for us.

Jesus said: "Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy." He also said in Matthew 7:1-2 (NKJV) "Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you."

What power this concept of the scriptures lends to James 2:13 (NKJV) "For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment."

Opportunities for showing mercy abound:

The most obvious way we can show mercy is through physical acts, we are to feed the hungry, cloth the naked, visit the sick and imprisoned, care for the orphaned and the widow, allow God's supernatural gifts to flow through us to meet the needs of others.

Many times when Jesus performed miracles the bible states that he was moved with compassion.

We can show mercy by our attitudes. Mercy does not hold a grudge, rejoice or capitalize on another's failure or weakness, harbor resentment or publicize another's sin outside of biblical directives.

Mercy is also to be shown spiritually: **First**, it is shown by expressing compassion. The sensitive Christian will grieve over lost souls and those who are living in apostasy.

Second, we are to show mercy by confrontation. Love and mercy will be severe when that is necessary for the sake of an erring brother and for the sake of Christ's church. In such case we would show a lack of true mercy by saying nothing and allowing the harm continue.

Jude 1:21-23 (NIV) "keep yourselves in God's love, as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. 22 Be merciful to those who doubt; 23 snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear -- hating even the clothing stained by corrupt flesh."

Extreme situations require extreme measures but we are to show mercy in even the worst situations.

Third, we are to show spiritual mercy by praying. Our mercy can be measured by our prayer for the lost and those who are walking in disobedience.

Fourth, we are to show spiritual mercy by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ -- the most merciful thing we can do.

Throughout the scriptures we see the mercies of God revealed. For those of us who have received salvation we experienced it directly. How then can we who are being conformed to the image of Jesus Christ be less than merciful?

Colossians 3:12-13 (NKJV) states: "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do."

And in James 3:17-18 (NKJV) we read: "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. 18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."

"To love mercy" – "Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy."

3. To walk humbly with your God

Walk humbly with your God—Keep up a constant fellowship with God, by humble, holy faith. - John Wesley's notes

Humility- lack of vanity or self importance.

Humility, the place of entire dependence on God, is, from the very nature of things, the first duty and the highest virtue of the creature, and the root of every virtue. Andrew Murray.

But how you thou to do this? You are to walk humbly with thyour God; enuh, hatsnea, to humble yourself to walk. This implies to acknowledge your iniquity, and submit to be saved by his free mercy, as you have already found that no kind of offering or sacrifice can avail. Without this humiliation of soul there never was, there never can be, any walking With God; for without his mercy no soul can be saved; and he must be YOUR God before you can walk with him. Many, when they hear the nature of sin pointed out, and the way of salvation made plain through the blood of the Lamb, have shut their eyes both against sin and the proper sacrifice for it, and parried all exhortation, threatening, &c., with this text: "God requires nothing of us but to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with him." Now I ask any man, Are thou willing to stand or fall by this text? And it would cost me neither much time nor much pains to show that on this ground no soul of man can be saved. Nor does God say that this doing justly, &c., shall merit eternal glory. No. He shows that in this way all men should walk; that this is the duty of EVERY rational being; but He well knows that no

fallen soul can act this way without special assistance from Him, and that it is only the regenerate man, the man who has found redemption through the blood of the cross, and has God for HIS God, that can act and walk this way. Salvation is of the mere mercy of God alone; for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. – Adam Clarke's Commentary

The true proof of godliness is not expensive rites, but hearty obedience; not a loud profession, but holy living; not large subscriptions, but a yielding up of the heart. Have we this vital godliness? Has the Holy Spirit wrought in us a change of heart? – C.H. Spurgeon

The good which God requires of us is, not the paying a price for the pardon of sin and acceptance with God, but love to himself; and what is there unreasonable, or hard, in this? Every thought within us must be brought down, to be brought into obedience to God, if we would walk comfortably with him. We must do this as penitent sinners, in dependence on the Redeemer and his atonement. Blessed be the Lord that he is ever ready to give his grace to the humble, waiting penitent. – Matthew Henry

Deuteronomy 10:12 (NKJV) "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,

1 Samuel 15:22 (NKJV) Then Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.

Isaiah 1:17 (NKJV) Learn to do good; Seek justice, Rebuke the oppressor; Defend the fatherless, Plead for the widow.

Hosea 6:6 (NKJV) For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.

Hosea 12:6 (NKJV) So you, by the help of your God, return; Observe mercy and justice, And wait on your God continually.

Micah 6:8 (NKJV) He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?

Application is everything

James 2:14-18 ,20 (NLT) What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? **15** Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, **16** and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?

17 So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless. 18 Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds." But I say, "How can you show me your faith if you don't have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds."

20 How foolish! Can't you see that faith without good deeds is useless?

Get out of the House Video

James 1:27 (NLT) Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.