

*What Should*

*Others Do?*

Galatians 6:2

Bear ye one another's  
burdens, and so fulfil  
the law of Christ.

Philip. 2:4

Look not every man on his  
own things, but every man  
also on the things of others.

**Compiled By Dr. Harold Bollinger**

## What Should Others Do

### John 21:21-22

Peter seeing him, saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? [22] Jesus saith unto him, if I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? Follow thou me.

Peter asked Jesus how John would die. Jesus replied that Peter should not concern himself with that. We tend to compare our lives to others, whether to rationalize our own level of devotion to Christ or to question God's justice. Jesus responds to us as he did to Peter: "What is that to you? As for you, follow me."

**Treat others as you would be treated.**

### Matthew 7:12

“So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

This is commonly known as the Golden Rule. In many religions it is stated negatively: "Don't do to others what you don't want done to you." By stating it positively, Jesus made it more significant. It is not very hard to refrain from harming others; it is much more difficult to take the initiative in doing something good for them. The Golden Rule, as Jesus formulated it, is the foundation of active goodness and mercy—the kind of love God shows to us every day. Think of a good and merciful action you can do today.

**Bless others so you may gain a blessing.**

### 1 Peter 3:9

Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.

Where is God? How can we know God is real? Who says the Bible is any better than other holy books? To answer these questions, God sent his Son, Jesus Christ, as living evidence.

God also chose Peter and others to show what a difference true faith makes in the real world. So here the once rash, belligerent, domineering, and arrogant Peter bears witness to a life of harmony, compassion, love, and humility.

What a difference God makes! You, too, are God's witness to skeptical people. Let your life be evidence of God's truth. Let your pride become humility and your insensitivity give way to genuine affection for others.

### **Love others as God has loved you.**

#### **John 15:12**

**“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.**

A man who hadn't walked for 38 years had been healed, but the Pharisees were more concerned about their petty rules than the life and health of a human being. The Jewish leaders saw both a mighty miracle of healing and a broken rule. They threw the miracle aside as they focused their attention on the broken rule, because the rule was more important to them than the miracle. It is easy to get so caught up in our man-made structures and rules that we forget the people involved.

### **Love others in truth.**

#### **1 John 4:20**

**If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.**

It is easy to say we love God when that love doesn't cost us anything more than weekly attendance at religious services. But the real test of our love for God is how we treat the people right in front of us—our family members and fellow believers. We cannot truly love God while neglecting to love those who are created in his image.

### **Give to the needs of others.**

#### **1 John 3:17**

But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?

These verses give an example of how to give up our life for others—to help those in need. This is strikingly similar to James's teaching (James 2:14-17). How clearly do your actions say you really love others? Are you as generous as you should be with your money, possessions, and time?

### **Rebuke not, but encourage.**

#### **1 Timothy 5:1-2**

Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.

### **Look also to the interests of others.**

#### **Philippians 2:4**

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Paul encourages us to guard against any selfishness, prejudice, or jealousy that might lead to dissension. Showing genuine interest in others is a positive step forward in maintaining unity among believers.

### **The strong should bear the failing of the weak.**

#### **Romans 15:1-2**

We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

The knowledge of the Scriptures affects our attitude toward the present and the future. The more we know about what God has done in years past, the greater the confidence we have about what he will do in the days ahead. We need to diligently read our Bibles so we may have confidence that God's will is best for us.

### **Love others with a brotherly affection.**

#### **Romans 12:10**

Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

Most of us have learned how to be courteous to others—how to speak kindly, avoid hurting their feelings, and appear to take an interest in them. We may even be skilled in pretending to show compassion when we hear of others' needs, or to become indignant when we learn of injustice. But God calls us to real and genuine love that goes far beyond being hypocritical and polite.

Genuine love requires concentration and effort. It means helping others become better people. It demands our time, money, and personal involvement. No individual has the capacity to express love to a whole community, but the body of Christ in your town does.

## **Laying down your life shows greater love.**

### **John 15:13**

Greater love has no one than this that someone lay down his life for his friends.

We are to love each other as Jesus loved us, and he loved us enough to give his life for us. We may not have to die for someone, but there are other ways to practice sacrificial love: listening, helping, encouraging, giving. Think of someone in particular who needs this kind of love today. Give all the love you can, and then try to give a little more.

## **Love one another as Christ has loved us.**

### **John 13:34-35**

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

To love others was not a new commandment (see Leviticus 19:18), but to love others as much as Christ loved others was revolutionary. Now we are to love others based on Jesus' sacrificial love for us. Such love will not only bring unbelievers to Christ; it will also keep believers strong and united in a world hostile to God. Jesus was a living example of God's love, as we are to be living examples of Jesus' love

## **Love your neighbor as yourself.**

### **Mark 12:31**

The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

God's laws are not burdensome. They can be reduced to two simple principles: Love God and love others. When you love God completely and care for others as you care for yourself, then you have fulfilled the intent of the Ten Commandments and the other Old Testament laws. According to Jesus, these two commandments summarize all God's laws. Let them rule your thoughts, decisions, and actions. When you are uncertain about what to do, ask yourself which course of action best demonstrates love for God and love for others.

**If you forgive others, the father will for forgive you.**

### **Matthew 6:14-15**

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

**Stir one another to love.**

### **Hebrews 10:24**

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,

We have significant privileges associated with our new life in Christ:

- (1) We have personal access to God through Christ and can draw near to him without an elaborate system (10:22);
- (2) We may grow in faith, overcome doubts and questions, and deepen our relationship with God (10:23);
- (3) We may enjoy motivation from one another (10:24); (4) we may worship together (10:25).

## **Make intercessions for others.**

### **1 Timothy 2:1-5**

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

Although God is all-powerful and all-knowing, he has chosen to let us help him change the world through our prayers. How this works is a mystery to us because of our limited understanding, but it is a reality.

Paul based his instruction about prayer for *everyone* on his conviction that God's invitation for salvation extends equally to all people.

The word *everyone* captures the nature of the gospel. The world that God loves includes every person (John 3:16).

He loves us as individuals whom he knows intimately (Psalm 139:13-18).

Paul urges us to pray for "all people." Our earnest prayers will have powerful results (James 5:16).

## **Bear with one another and forgive one another.**

### **Colossians 3:12-14**

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.



**Paul offers a strategy to help us live for God day by day:**

- (1) Imitate Christ's compassionate, forgiving attitude (3:12, 13);
- (2) Let love guide your life (3:14);
- (3) Let the peace of Christ rule in your heart (3:15);
- (4) Always be thankful (3:15);
- (5) keep God's Word in you at all times (3:16);
- (6) Live as Jesus Christ's representative (3:17).

**Count others more significant than yourself.**

**Philippians 2:3**

**Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.**

Selfishness can ruin a church, but genuine humility can build it. Being humble involves having a true perspective about ourselves (see Romans 12:3). It does not mean that we should put ourselves down. Before God, we are sinners, saved only by God's grace, but we *are* saved and therefore have great worth in God's Kingdom.

We are to lay aside selfishness and treat others with respect and common courtesy. Considering others' interests as more important than our own links us with Christ, who was a true example of humility.

**Be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving one another.**

**Ephesians 4:30-32**

**And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.**

**(These tell ways to grieve the Holy Spirit).**

As we come to understand his mercy, however, we will want to be like him. Having received forgiveness, we will pass it on to others. Those who are unwilling to forgive have not become one with Christ, who was willing to forgive even those who crucified him (Luke 23:34).

**Bear one another's burdens.**

**Galatians 6:2**

**Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.**

No Christian should ever think that he or she is totally independent and doesn't need help from others, and no one should feel excused from the task of helping others. The body of Christ—the church—functions only when the members work together for the common good. Do you know someone who needs help? Is there a Christian brother or sister who needs correction or encouragement? Humbly and gently reach out to that person offering to lift his or her load.

**Love your neighbor as yourself.**

**Galatians 5:14**

**For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."**

When we believers lose the motivation of love, we become critical of others. We stop looking for good in them and see only their faults. Soon we lose our unity. Have you talked behind someone's back? Have you focused on others' shortcomings instead of their strengths? Remind yourself of Jesus' command to love others as you love yourself.

## **Love rejoices in the truth.**

### **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.

Our society confuses love and lust. Unlike lust, God's kind of love is directed outward toward others, not inward toward ourselves. It is utterly unselfish. This kind of love goes against our natural inclinations. It is impossible to have this love unless God helps us set aside our own natural desires so that we can love and not expect anything in return. Thus, the more we become like Christ, the more love we will show to others.

## **Contribute to the needs of the saints.**

### **Romans 12:13**

Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Christian hospitality differs from social entertaining. Entertaining focuses on the host: The home must be spotless; the food must be well prepared and abundant; the host must appear relaxed and good-natured. Hospitality, by contrast, focuses on the guests' needs, such as a place to stay, nourishing food, a listening ear, or just acceptance. Hospitality can happen in a messy home.

## **When you give, it will be given back to you.**

### **Luke 6:37-38**

“Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.

A forgiving spirit demonstrates that a person has received God's forgiveness. Jesus used the picture of measuring grain in a basket to ensure the full amount. If we are critical rather than compassionate, we will also receive criticism. If we treat others generously, graciously, and compassionately.

### **An invitation is given to open your heart's door to Jesus**

#### **Rev. 3:20**

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

**To ask Jesus to come into your heart please pray this Prayer:**

**Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.**

#### **References:**

Holy Bible: King James Translation

Additional comments and charts are taken from: *Life Application Study Bible*. Illinois: Tyndale House 2007.

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