

## SERVING GOD BY LOVING OTHER BELIEVERS (9-16)

*Our service to God is lived out in our attitudes and actions towards other believers.*

### Introduction

You have presented your body to God as a living sacrifice. God has placed you in the body of Christ and gifted you for service. Your service to God in the body of Christ will be practically seen in your attitudes and actions towards other believers.

#### **[9] Let love be without dissimulation.**

- Love is the peak of Christian character. *1 John 4:16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.*
- Love is one of the attributes that defines God to us. *1 John 4:8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.*
- This attribute of our Heavenly Father is to be seen in us, His children. *2 John 1:6 And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.*
- God's love is genuine and is freely given as an act of the will completely for the benefit of the recipient.
  - **DISSIMULATION**, noun [Latin , to make like; like.] The act of dissembling; a hiding under a false appearance; a feigning; false pretension; hypocrisy. Dissimulation may be simply concealment of the opinions, sentiments or purpose; but it includes also the assuming of a false or counterfeit appearance which conceals the real opinions or purpose. Dissimulation among statesmen is sometimes regarded as a necessary vice, or as no vice at all. (Webster's 1828).
  - *John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*
- Sinful people will show a love (which isn't true love at all) to others out of pretense with selfish motives in mind.
- God defines love. *1 John 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*
- We are able to love only by the power and presence of God. *Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, (23) Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*
- This kind of love towards others fulfills the Law (Romans 13:8-10, Galatians 5:14).

#### **Abhor that which is evil;**

- **ABHOR'**, *verb transitive* [L abhorreo, of ab and horreo, to set up bristles, shiver or shake; to look terrible.]
  1. To hate extremely, or with contempt; to lothe, detest or abominate.
  2. To despise or neglect. Psalms 22:24. Amos 6:8.
  3. To cast off or reject. Psalm 89:38.
- This should be the attitude of a child of God towards sin.

- In reality, the believer possesses this hatred for sin in his or her born again spirit, but our bodies still have a love affair with sin.
- The believer who has not presented their body to God will continually struggle with a love hate relationship with sin.
- He or she will give into the lust of the flesh because they are still willing to yield the members of their body to sin.
  - Their bodies still love sinning and will convince the believer that he or she does too.
  - Once the child of God makes up his or her mind that they hate sin, they will stop yielding the members of their bodies to sin.
  - *Romans 6:11-14 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. (12) Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. (13) Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. (14) For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.*

***Cleave to that which is good.***

- **CLEAVE**, verb intransitive
  1. To stick; to adhere; to hold to.  
My bones cleave to my skin. Psalms 102:5.  
Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth. Psalms 137:6.  
CLEAVE to that which is good. Romans 12:9. (Webster 1828)
- The believer is to be glued to whatever is good.
  - We are to be totally separated from evil and completely connected to good.
  - The only way to do this is to present our bodies to God.
  - If you don't you will continually be moving back and forth between yielding the members of your body to sin and yielding them to righteousness. Like the *double minded* man in James.
    - *James 1:8 (KJV) A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.*
    - *James 4:8 (KJV) Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.*
- Romans 12:1-2 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. (2) And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

***[10] Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love;***

- Today we think of kind as simply being nice; but in truth it means *of the same nature*.  
*Genesis 1:11 And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.*

- Born again believers are unique in the human race in that we have the Holy Spirit of God living inside of us.
- We are all of the same kind.
- Spiritually speaking we are kin and we should love one another by showing this kindly affection to each other.
- *Affectioned* is an attitude that makes us feel inseparable from one another.
  - This attitude should be a continual mark of the children of God.
  - It should manifest itself in love towards one another.

***In honour preferring one another;***

- **HON'OR**, n. on'or. [L. honor, honos.]
  1. The esteem due or paid to worth; high estimation.
- **PREFER'**, verb transitive [Latin profero; proe, before, and fero, to bear or carry.]
  1. Literally, to bear or carry in advance, in the mind, affections or choice; hence, to regard more than another; to honor or esteem above another.

***[11] Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;***

- *Business* is commonly thought of as your occupation.
- It means much more than that here.
  - The word is connected with busy.
  - Literally busy-ness.
  - It speaks of what occupies your time and attention.
  - Of course our service to God should occupy all of our time and attention.
  - *It should be the main business of life to serve God, and obey his commands.* (Webster 1828)
- Service to God includes our God given occupation among other things also.
- In all the business that God gives us to do we are not to be slothful, that is slow or lazy.
- Instead, we are to be *fervent in spirit*.
  - *Fervent* means hot.
  - As we say today; *we are to be on fire for the Lord.*
  - We are to be excited and eager to do the business of God in service to the Lord.
  - The condemnation of the church of the Laodiceans in Revelation 3:15-16 was that they were neither cold nor hot; but were just indifferent towards God and their service for Him.
  - (Revelation 3:15-16) *I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.*

***[12] Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation;***

- Rejoicing for the child of God is totally different from that of the people of the world.
  - The people of the world rejoice in circumstances, but the child of God rejoices in hope.

- The people of the world look around them and rejoice in favorable conditions and sorrow in unfavorable ones.
- The child of God looks ahead to his or her eternal promise of God in Christ.
- The child of God patiently remains in his or her circumstances whether good or bad, trusting God to get them safely through to eternity.
- It is in this hope that the children of God are able to rejoice regardless of their circumstances and remain patient through difficult times to the end.

***Continuing instant in prayer;***

- **CONTINUING**, ppr.  
Remaining fixed or permanent; abiding; lasting; enduring; persevering; protracting; producing in length.  
a. Permanent.
- **IN'STANT**, a. [L. instans, insto.]
  - Pressing; urgent; importunate; earnest. Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer. Rom 12.
  - Immediate; without intervening time; present. Impending death is thine and instant doom.
  - Quick; making no delay. Instant he flew with hospitable haste.
  - Present; current. On the tenth of July instant.
- Believers are to be permanently pressing out the work of the LORD in prayer.
- (1 Thessalonians 5:17) *Pray without ceasing.*

***[13] Distributing to the necessity of saints;***

- As believers we are to share in the needs of each other to see that no one goes lacking.
- (Acts 2:44-45) *And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.*

***given to hospitality.***

- **GIV'EN**, pp. giv'n. Bestowed; granted; conferred; imparted; admitted or supposed.
- **HOSPITAL'ITY**, n. [L. hospitalitas.] The act or practice of receiving and entertaining strangers or guests without reward, or with kind and generous liberality. A bishop--must be given to hospitality. 1 Tim 3.

***[14] Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.***

- The children of the devil are always about the business of persecuting the children of God. (1 Peter 5:8) *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*
- This persecution can manifest in physical and mental distress.
- Jesus said that being persecuted for righteousness' sake was a blessing. (Matthew 5:10-12) *Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding*

*glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.*

- Therefore, we are to bless those who persecute us for they are blessing us with their persecution. (1 Peter 4:12-19) *Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf. For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.*

**[15] Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. [16] Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.**

- We believers are to not only share material things with each other, but we are to share emotionally as well.
- We are to think of each other as being equally important.
- We are to be willing to come down to lift others up.
  - Like Jesus Christ did for us.
  - (Philippians 2:5-8) *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

### **Conclusion**

If you and I are to effectively serve God in the body of Christ, then our attitudes and actions towards one another must remain faithful to the new creatures that we now are in Christ. Being transformed by the renewing of our minds we think and act from the inside out. We no longer yield to the evil influence of the flesh in our interactions with each other. Instead, we yield to the Holy Spirit, Who lives in our spirits, presenting our bodies to God. Then the Holy Spirit causes us to think and act with God's love and goodness towards each other.