

## What is a Christians Community Responsibilities?

**We are to totally make ourselves available to others in their needs** - Luke 10:29-36 - 29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" 30 In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' 36 "**Which of these three do you think WAS A NEIGHBOR to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?**"

\* Though we are to be available to our neighbor, as always, we must be careful HOW we do it to make sure we stay in God's will.

**Make sure first we understand what our relationship to the community is NOT**

**Remember we are not OF THE WORLD we are citizens of Heaven –**

**We are not OF THE WORLD** - John 17:14-I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for **THEY ARE NOT OF THE WORLD** any more than I am of the world.

**Our loyalty is to our only country...Heaven** - The Phil 3:20-21 - 20 But **OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN HEAVEN**. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

**Those in the world are ALL under Satan** - 1 John 5:19-We know that we are children of God, and that the **WHOLE WORLD** is under the control of the evil one.

**We are warned and commanded NOT to love or befriend the World**

**True Christians DO NOT love the world** - 1 John 2:15-17 - 15 **DO NOT LOVE THE WORLD OR ANYTHING IN THE WORLD**. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For **everything in the world** — the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does — comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

**Loving the world is direct hatred toward God** - James 4:4 You **ADULTEROUS PEOPLE**, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world **becomes an enemy of God.**

**We are not to partner with unbelievers** - 2 Cor 6:14-16 - 14 **DO NOT BE YOKED TOGETHER WITH UNBELIEVERS**. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."

**We must be very careful how we communicate with the non-Christian community**

**Non-Christian's cannot understand Spiritual Words** - 1 Cor 2:13-15 - 13 This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. 14 The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for **they are foolishness to him**, and **HE CANNOT UNDERSTAND THEM**, because they are spiritually discerned.

**Non-Christians will not know how to deal with the sacred Word** - Matt 7:6 "**DO NOT give dogs what is sacred; DO NOT throw your pearls to pigs.** If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces.

**Our community responsibility must be based on God**

**What we do in our community must be done in REAL Love** - 1 Cor 13:3 If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but **have not love, I gain nothing.**

**We must love others as we love ourselves** - Gal 5:14 The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

**The only debt we are to owe one-another must be love** - Rom 13:8 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.

**Our purpose for our neighbor is for his good** - Rom 15:2-Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

**We are not to look out for our good but the good of others** - 1 Cor 10:24 -Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others.

**Give to the community what belongs to the community but MAKE SURE we give to God what belongs to God** - Luke 20:22-25 - 22 Is it right for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" 23 He saw through their duplicity and said to them, 24 "Show me a denarius. Whose portrait and inscription are on it?" 25 "Caesar's," they replied. He said to them, "Then give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

## So how are we to be responsible to Community?

**We are to remember where we are from, not to be driven by desire, and be very careful HOW we live among unbelievers** - 1 Peter 2:11-12 - 11 Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. **LIVE SUCH GOOD LIVES** among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

**Our light must be a ministry to others** - Matt 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

**We must control how we speak, knowing our audience, provide Godly conversation** - Eph 4:29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but **ONLY** what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

**We are the voice and the defender for the poor and needy** - Prov 31:8-9 - 8 "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. 9 Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."

**We are responsible for looking out for the helpless in their distress but not being influenced by the world** - James 1:27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows IN THEIR DISTRESS and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

**We must respect all worldly authority** - 1 Peter 2:13-17 - 13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, 14 or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. 15 For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. 16 Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. 17 Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.

**Obedying God always overrules obeying man** - Acts 5:27-29 - 27 Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. 28 "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood." 29 Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!"

**We are to pray for everyone** - 1 Tim 2:1-4 - I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone— 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. 3 **This is good**, and pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

**Realize the purpose of our riches** - 1 Tim 6:17-19 - 17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 **Command them to do good**, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

**We look out for whom the world calls the least** - Luke 14:12-14 - 12 Then Jesus said to his host, "**When you give a luncheon or dinner**, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. 13 But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, 14 and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

**What we do or don't do for "THE LEAST" will determine what we are and where we are going** - Matt 25:31-46 - 31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. 34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, '**Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world**.' 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' 37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' 40 "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, **WHATEVER YOU DID FOR ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE BROTHERS OF MINE, YOU DID FOR ME**.' 41 "Then he will say to those on his left, '**Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels**.' 42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.' 44 "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' 45 "He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, **WHATEVER YOU DID NOT DO FOR ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE, YOU DID NOT DO FOR ME**.' 46 "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."