

## Christian Responsibility to Community

**We must recognize what we are to the world** - 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. 12 **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.

**Your community (also known as your neighbor) is everyone. We are responsible for, displaying God's love** - Luke 10:30-37 - 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?" 37 The expert in the law replied, "**The one who had mercy on him.**" Jesus told him, "**GO AND DO LIKEWISE.**"

**We are to quietly live a responsible, respectful life in our community** - 1 Thess 4:11-12 - 11 Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, 12 **SO THAT your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and SO THAT you will not be dependent on anybody.**

**We must treat the community with respect and honesty** - Prov 3:27-30 - 27 Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act. 28 Do not say to your neighbor, "Come back later; I'll give it tomorrow" — when you now have it with you. 29 Do not plot harm against your neighbor, who lives trustfully near you. 30 Do not accuse a man for no reason — when he has done you no harm.

**We are never to judge our neighbor** - James 4:12 There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you — who are you to judge your neighbor? **\*Better to live Fearing God than finding comfort in your views**

**We are NOT to partner and befriend the community**

2 Cor 6:14 **Do not be yoked together** with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?

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 to be "in" not "of" the community** - John 17:14-17 - 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. 15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. 16 **They are not of the world,** even as I am not of it. 17 **SANCTIFY THEM BY THE TRUTH; YOUR WORD IS TRUTH.**

**As the second greatest command states, we must love our neighbor...completely** - James 2:8-10 - 8 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF," you are doing right. 9 But **IF YOU SHOW FAVORITISM, YOU SIN AND ARE CONVICTED BY THE LAW AS LAWBREAKERS.** 10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

**We must be a voice for ALL the voiceless** - 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."

**Favoritism includes Racism, classism, and genderism\*** - Prov 20:10 Differing weights and differing measures — the **LORD DETESTS THEM BOTH.** (\*speaking of biological male or female)

**Those that take care of themselves and harm the poor and the oppressed WILL BE held accountable** –

Jer 5:26-29 - 26 "Among my people are wicked men who lie in wait like men who snare birds and like those who set traps to catch men. 27 Like cages full of birds, their houses are full of deceit; they have become rich and powerful 28 and have grown fat and sleek. Their evil deeds have no limit; they do not plead the case of the fatherless to win it, they do not defend the rights of the poor. 29 **Should I not punish them for this?" declares the Lord.** "Should I not avenge myself on such a nation as this?"

James 5:1-6 - Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you. 2 Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. 3 Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. 4 Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. 5 **You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence.** You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned and murdered innocent men, who were not opposing you.

**The community will at times support "the wicked", we are not to support the wicked in their wickedness** –

1 Cor 6:9-10 - 9 Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? **DO NOT BE DECEIVED:** Neither the **sexually immoral** nor **idolaters** nor **adulterers** nor **male prostitutes** nor **homosexual offenders** 10 nor **thieves** nor the **greedy** nor **drunkards** nor **slanders** nor **swindlers** **WILL INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD.**

Ps 1:1-2 - Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. 2 But his **delight is in the law of the Lord,** and on his law he meditates day and night.

**Please recognize, when we are part of the oppression, we show disrespect for God** - Prov 14:31 He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.

**Choosing not to do anything is a very dangerous option** - Matt 25:44-46 - 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.**"