

The Christian's Duty To The Brethren

Don't forget about our radio program. The broadcast is every Sunday morning from 8:00-8:45 on the HUM. The station can be found at 98.5 in Columbus and 98.3 in Seymour.

Daily Bible Readings

If you have any suggestions on a Bible reading plan we can do together next year let me know.

The Outline is Online

Don't forget that the outline is also available online. Download a copy now.

Blog

What's your most helpful verse or phrase from Romans 12?

Ronny Milliner

Being baptized into Christ gives us the privilege of being re-countable for how we use the children of God (Gal. 3:26-27). This relationship also them or do not use them. "Moreover it is required in means that I have a relation to all others who are the children of God. Paul suggests some of the responsibilities that we have to our brethren in Romans 12:3-16.

Objective Thinking

Paul first advises us, "For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith" (12:3).

Pride has been the fall of many a man (Prov. 16:18). There is no room for pride in the kingdom of servants (Mt. 20:2-28). "Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (1 Pet. 5:5b).

Talent-User

We are all children in the same family. But the apostle uses another figure to describe us. We are all members of the same body.

"For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually

members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness"(12:4-8).

How wonderful it is for our bodies to be able to function as they do! Each member of the body has its duty to fulfill, and when each is working properly the physical body is indeed a t But the same should be true of the spiritual body. It is composed of different members with different talents or abilities. Maybe I can't lead singing, but I can act in some other role. Maybe you can't publicly teach, but do have a gift of showing mercy. Should we be, jealous of each other's talents? Certainly not! Instead, let each use his own talents to the best of his ability and then watch as the body grows and functions.

Having been entrusted with certain talents or gifts we must stewards that one be found faithful" (1 Cor. 4:2). Let us not forget the lessons from the parable of the talents (Mt. 25:14-30).

Honest Love

"Let love be without hypoc-

risy" is Paul's next admonition (12:9a). How disappointing is a pretended love. True love will be "from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from a sincere faith" (1 Tim. 1:5). Jesus is the example of true love. "My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth" (1 Jn. 3:18).

Evil-Hater

A Christian is to be both a lover and a hater. We must, "Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good" (12:9b). David was an evil hater, and he learned what to hate from a meditation on the word of God (Psa. 119:104). Jesus is an evil-hater (Rev. 2:6,15). While hating evil, we must "super glue" ourselves to what is good. Of course, this action will involve us in determining what is good and what is evil. For this reason Paul wrote, "Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil" (1 Thess. 5:21-22).

Regarding Others

"Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another" (12:10). Brotherly love is the Christian's badge of discipleship (Jn. 13:35). Love manifests itself in kindness. It will also manifest itself in "giving preference to one another." We should "esteem others better than" ourselves, and look out not just for our interests, "but also for the interests of others" (Phil. 2:3-4).

Practical Chapters in the Bible

Romans 12:11-12

Points to Consider

Not Lagging in Diligence
Fervent in spirit
Serving the Lord
Rejoicing in Hope
Patient in Tribulation
Steadfastly in Prayer

Not Lagging in Diligence

Eccl 9:10 *Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.*

Every task we undertake as Christians we should do it with _____ our might.

Col 3:22-25 *Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. 23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.*

Everything we do we should work as if _____ were our direct boss. He is!

Gen 31:38-42 *These twenty years I have been with you; your ewes and your female goats have not miscarried their young, and I have not eaten the rams of your flock. 39 That which was torn by beasts I did not bring to you; I bore the loss of it. You required it from my hand, whether stolen by day or stolen by night. 40 There I was! In the day the drought consumed me, and the frost by night, and my sleep departed from my eyes. 41 Thus I have been in your house twenty years; I served you fourteen years for your two daughters, and six years for your flock, and you have changed my wages ten times. 42 Unless the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had been with me, surely now you would have sent me away empty-handed. God has seen my affliction and the labor of my hands, and rebuked you last night."*

Jacob was not lagging in _____.

Paul was not lagging in diligence when it came to his _____ work.

Fervent in Spirit

Acts 18:24-28 *Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. 25 This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though*

he knew only the baptism of John. 26 So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. 27 And when he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; 28 for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.

Apollos was “_____ over” for the Lord. He wanted to do the right thing for the right one.

Serving the Lord

As Christians we voluntarily become _____ to the Lord. He is the supreme authority in our lives.

Col 3:24-25 *Knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.*

Our _____ comes from the one we serve.
When we enter into a covenant relationship with God, there are no _____.

Rejoicing in Hope

The confident _____ of what we desire causes us to rejoice.

Luke 10:17-20 *Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." 18 And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. 20 Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."*

Joy was not predicated on what they could do, but where they were going. They should rejoice because they _____ to the Lord.

Phil 4:4 *Rejoice in the Lord _____.* Again I will say, rejoice!

Acts 8:39-40 *Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way _____.*

Patient in Tribulation

Heb 11:36-40 *Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented — 38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. 39 And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, 40 God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.*

Our spiritual heritage is filled with people who were able to hold up under _____.
Faith is what enabled them to patiently endure trials.

Dan 3:13-18 *Then Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. So they brought these men before the king. 14 Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the gold image which I have set up? 15 Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?" 16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. 18 But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."*

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were able to hold up under pressure because they trusted God.

Steadfastly in Prayer

Acts 6:3-4 *Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; 4 but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."*

The apostles gave themselves _____ to prayer and to the ministry of the word.

Dan 6:10 *Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.*

Daniel was steadfast in prayer. He prayed **three** times every day since he was young.

Ps 119:164 *Seven times a day I praise You, Because of Your righteous judgments.*

David consistently prayed and praised God.

Commit today to apply these principles to your life.

Not Lagging in Diligence – Take one area of your work life and commit to improving it.

Fervent in spirit – Do everything you do for the Lord with a fervent spirit.

Serving the Lord – If there is something you have not totally surrendered to the Lord, surrender it.

Rejoicing in Hope – Set aside some time to think about your name being written in the book of life.

Patient in Tribulation – The next time you are under pressure, think about Job.

Steadfastly in Prayer – Set aside three times other than meal time, to pray every day this week.

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Compelling Worker

In our activities we should not be "lagging in diligence," but "fervent in spirit, serving the Lord" (Rom. 12:11). God will not accept half-hearted, hohum, service. He demands, like Bobby Knight, 110%. We can be sluggish, slothful, and backward. Or, we can be full of haste, earnestness, and zeal. How do you serve the Lord? "It is good to be zealous in a good thing always" (Gal. 4:18a).

Happy In Hope

Paul says we should be "rejoicing in hope" (12:12a). He stated the reason why we can rejoice in hope in chapter five and verse two. We have hope because of God's gracious plan to redeem us from our sins. We have met the conditions to receive this blessing as well as all the spiritual blessings in Jesus. And that "hope does not disappoint" (Rom. 5: 1).

Resister Of Tribulation

"Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution" (2 Tim. 3:12). Knowing this fact, we must be "patient in tribulation" (12:12b). We will be tried. The early Christians "endured a great struggle with sufferings," "were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations," and "accepted the plundering of" their goods (Heb. 10:32-34). And yet these ones were told, "Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise" (Heb. 10:35-36).

Intent On Prayer

Another responsibility the Christian has is to be "continuing steadfastly in prayer" (12:12c). Colossians 4:2 also exhorts, "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving." Certainly we should pray for "all the

saints" (Eph. 6:18). Such a continuous intercession surely shows our interest in our family members.

Sharing With The Needy

"Distributing to the needs of the saints" is also a duty we have toward other Christians (12:13a). One is impressed with the benevolent spirit of the early church in caring for its needy (Acts 2:44-45; 4:34-35). The word "distributing" contains the idea of fellowship or sharing. If a brother has some particular need, then I also have that need -- we share it together.

Trained In Hospitality

The child of God must be "given to hospitality" (12:13b). Such does not mean that we just have our friends into our homes, but it literally means "love of strangers." I must practice this hospitality "without grumbling" (1 Pet. 4:9). One who opens his home to his fellow-brethren will often find himself blessed (cf. Heb. 13:2).

Injury-Forgiving

There will be times when a Christian is abused in some fashion, and it may be from one who is supposed to be a child of God. In that case, we are to "bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse" (12:14). We are to pray for, love, and do good to those who are our enemies (Lk. 6:27-31). The apostle Paul is an example of such character as he wrote, "being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure it; being defamed, we entreat" (1 Cor. 4:12-13).

Aware of Another's Feelings

Romans 12:15 reads, "Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep." There is no room in God's family for jealousy over the success of others. And, there is no room in God's family for a spirit of

coldness or being unconcerned over the sorrow of others. Since we are one body, "if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it" (1 Cor. 12:26).

Non-Divisive

One can almost say that Jesus' dying request was for the oneness of His followers (Jn. 17:20-21). Therefore, we should "be of the same mind toward one another" (12:16a). While this unity certainly would include doctrinal unity, it also involves being "perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Cor. 1:10). It includes "having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind" (Phil. 2:2).

Submissive

Finally, Paul writes, "Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion" (12:16b). When it comes to God's family, we are all one. "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28). Conceit is ruled out (Prov. 3:7).

Conclusion

As we look over this list of duties, let us strive to put each of these traits in our lives as well as helping to develop them in the lives of others. Let these be "all in the family."

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