

THE CHRISTIAN'S RESPONSIBILITY

Romans 12

The mercies of God live up to responsibilities to God, His Church, and the world! On basis of what God has done for us redemptively, I plead with you - do

something for God! *Story. Child fell in well - 2 men agreed to rescue - one lowered well, rope - other held rope on top - man held arm, rope slip - few feet back - - Bob, for God's sake; My sake & child's sake Please hold that rope!*

I. THE CHRISTIAN'S RESPONSIBILITY TO GOD - V. 1-2

1. Body - V. 1

Word shocks us - strange to Greek and Romans. If He had said soul, been different.

Pleads for practical everyday Christian living and service.

Greeks - what mattered was spirit - the body, a prison house, despised, held the soul and Plato taught the soul would escape the body and go back to God.

Other - The body not worth much, give over Licentiousness, indulgences of sin.

Magazine - newspapers - billboards expose the human body - condition Noah's Day.

Jas Won Song, (Korean student), O. D. spoke Rotary Club (24 years old) like American expects girls here in summer wear too little - so small - not enough clothing. Seems very bad condition. My country, unmarried girls no show much of their bodies to strangers. If unmarried girl should smoke in front of her parents, she would be greatly shamed and must leave.

Christian view point of the body - I Cor. 6:19-20.

1. What know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

For ye are bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit which are God's.

Christian faith says the way to serve God is through your body.

Take your body and make it a living sacrifice.

Argument to enforce this surrender.

1. Mercies of God.

2. Reasonable service - right thing to do.

Leviticus - killed the sacrifice - a living!

2. Mind - V. 2

A. Transformed - radical change - use the means God has appointed. It is God that turns us and not we ourselves. Open your life to the changing transforming influence of the Spirit.

(Not conformed) - to the world, fashioned in ways, spirit of the age, impulses, aims, aspirations, outward form. Don't try to match your life to all the fashions of this world! Don't let the world decide what you are going to be like!

Man in dungarees, same man in evening dress, his outward form changes, but inwardly he is the same person.

We must undergo a change, not outward, but renewal of the mind.

God has plan for every life.

Only those who surrender discover it.

II. CHRISTIAN'S RESPONSIBILITY TO HIS CHURCH - V. 3-1~~3~~⁷

1. General - V. 3

Each member has a task to do, a function.

All members of one body with abilities and limitations.

Humility - pride is sin - accept yourself - don't try to claim some abilities God has not given us.

2. Unity - V. 4-5

Realize we are but one member. Human body many members, members of same body. All members do not have the same work.

We are not to envy someone else's gift, not complain or regret some gift not given to us.

3. Gifts - V. 6

Remember God gives all the gifts to members of the church.

Divine gift - Charismata, a gift that man could not produce.

Wonderful thing - every Christian has one of these Charismata! God has given some ability to everybody. Gifts, abilities, talents.

Man, practice lifetime yet never play piano like an artist. Gwen. A musician has more than practice, something plus, Charisma which is a gift of God.

Man, toil life time tools and piece of wood and fashion nothing. One with skill has plus.

Prophecy - V. 6 - Proclaims the truth. Foretelling the future. To announce Christ to another man.

Ministry - V. 7. Practical service. There is no Christian who cannot every day in life show the love of Christ in deeds of service. As deacon, servant, all can join in this task.

Teachers - V. 7. Message of Christ needs not only to be proclaimed, it needs to be explained. One of great failures Church today. A good gift let him stick to it.

Exhortation - V. 8a. The note sounded here is encouragement - includes not so much as dangling a man over the flames of Hell as spurring him on to the joy of life in Christ.

Many cannot preach or teach but surely God has given many the ability to speak a word of encouragement to a discouraged or defeated Christian. This is a service, one of the Charismata.

Giving - 8b. Sharing is to be carried out with simple kindness.

Means simplicity and generosity.

Delights in the sheer pleasure of giving for giving's sake. Liberally, faithfully, with sincerity.

Ruleth - 8 c. Gifts in guiding the destiny of the church must do so with care.

Diligence - do one's best.

Occupy your place - problem of church get leaders - fewer and fewer with sense of service. Not willing to give up leisure and pleasure.

Show mercy - 8c. Visitation!

New Testament this different from our day. We mean go hospital at visiting hours see someone in for check-ups or recuperating from surgery.

Person sick needed help, down and out. Go, wash his feet, cook his dinner, take care of the children, perform some responsible task. This is what visitation meant in N. T. - assistance, help, widows, strangers.

4. Thirteen (basic rules) of practical living - V. 9-13.

(1) Love without hypocrisy - V. 9. Unforced, not as play actor, completely sincere.

*Old Gent interaction target St Bernard
Knocked him down - instant later foreign car shielded around corner inflicted
more damage - bystander helped him up and "if dog heads hurt him," The DO
didn't hurt much, but that tin can fell to his
tail nearly killed me"*

(2) Hate evil.

(3) Cling to good - glue.

(4) Affectionate to one another. V. 10. Family love. We must love each other, because we are members of one family.

We are not strangers to each other within the Christian church.

We are brothers and sisters.

We are not a collection of acquaintances.

We are a family in God.

(5) We give each other priority in honour. V. 10. Prefer to hear something good about a fellow Christian rather than something bad. Someone not thanked or been neglected.

Troubles that arise in churches concerning rights and privileges, places and prestige.

Mark of a Christian man is humility.

- (6) Not lazy - V. 11. Slothful, sluggish in zeal.
- (7) Fervent in spirit. Earnestness with which one should give himself
- at boiling point.
- (8) Serve the Lord - "Grasp your opportunities." "Seize your opportunities
at they come."

Tragedies of life is that we fail to grasp opportunity.

Three things never come back - the spent arrow, the spoken word,
and the lost opportunity."

- (9) Rejoice in hope - V. 12. There are no hopeless situations in life;
there are only men who have grown hopeless about them."
- (10) Patient in tribulation. Triumphant fortitude.
- (11) Persevere in prayer. Never let a day add to another day and a
week to another week when you never speak to God. Instant - without
ceasing!
- (12) Share with those in need. V. 13. In a world bent on getting,
the Christian is bent on giving.

"What we keep we lose, what we give we have."

- (13) Give to hospitality - duty to open your doors. Home can never be happy when it is selfish. We have lost something on this point. Like a family - Jesus washed disciples feet.

III. THE CHRISTIAN'S RESPONSIBILITY TO THE WORLD - V. 14-21

Rules govern relationships with fellow men.

1. Answer persecution with prayer - V. 14.

When a Christian is hurt, insulted, he has an example of his Master on cross prayed for enemies.

Stephen died praying for forgiveness for those that stoned him to death. (Paul heard that prayer.)

You feel slandered, "Bless them and curse not."

2. Rejoice and weep with people - V. 15.

Not so difficult to weep with people, respond, so and so's wife, father, child passed away - rush to house.

Hear something wonderful happened to somebody else, does it cause you to rejoice as if it had happened to you?

3. Live in harmony with one another. V. 16. Concord, kindness. Strife drives out possibility of doing good work.

4. Avoid snobbishness - slave and master sit together. Not think high things of self.

