

## Christians Care and Share

Text : **Luke 6: 27-38** ( Esp. **38** )

### INTRODUCTION :

#### A. The most important doctrine of the Christian religion is love. **Matt. 22: 36-40**

1. We understand that love for God makes demands upon our lives.

**II Cor. 5:14-15** For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; **15** and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

2. Love between brethren is equally as demanding.

**Phil. 2: 3-4** Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; **4** do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

#### B. The command to love is the most often repeated command in the N.T.

1. It is commanded more than **50** times.
2. Very large volume of material on the subject.
  - a. It is taught and set as the goal of our teaching. ( **I Tim. 1:5** )
  - b. Preachers are commanded to teach it. ( **Titus 3:14** )
  - c. It is illustrated by the history of the N.T. church.  
( **Acts 2, 4, 6, Rom., Gal., I Cor., II Cor., Gal., etc. ...** )
3. We're taught that love is to be an integral part of every aspect of the Christian life.
  - a. Our attitudes. ( *World View* )
  - b. Our actions
  - c. Our interactions

#### C. Thus, love is at the very core of the Christian character.

1. It determines the way we view the world.
2. It differentiates us from the rest of the world in very practical ways.

**John 13: 34-35** A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **35** By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

  - a. How is this a “new commandment ? ”
  - b. When Jesus stated that love was the greatest commandment ( **Matt. 22:37-39** ) ,

He was quoting the O.T. ( **Deut. 6: 5 & Lev. 19: 18** )

3. The “newness” is in the depth of love required and difference from the world.
  - a. Jesus gave up everything for those He loves. ( *Possessions, Position, etc.* )
  - b. His sacrifice on the cross was an act of love. ( **Phil. 2: 5-8** )
4. God’s love for us demands a response :

**Read ... I John 4:7-12**

**Since man’s relationship with God is measured by his love for God, for his fellowman and for his brethren in Christ, with this lesson we will observe some of the practical aspects of love as revealed in the New Testament.**

### **I. Love is more than warm thoughts and best wishes for another.**

- A. Love doesn’t always involve warm feelings; it can exist in extreme circumstances. ( *Keep our text in mind.* )
  1. Vs. **27** ... We are commanded to love people who “**hate**” us.
  2. Vs. **28** ... How do you sincerely pray for those who “**curse**” and “**mistreat**” you?
    - a. It requires a totally different character than that of the people in the world.
    - b. This difference in character is what distinguishes us from the world.
    - c. Love is something we do IN SPITE of what we feel.
- B. Loving always requires positive **action** on our part.
  1. Vs. **35-36** ... Loving our enemies requires **action** on our part.
    - a. **Do good**
    - b. **Lend** ( *no return = give* )
    - c. **Merciful**
  2. Loving our brethren also requires action on our part.
    - a. Warm feelings without actions are of no value.
 

**James 2: 15-16** If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, **16** and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,” and yet you do not give them what is necessary for *their* body, what use is that?
    - b. The Apostle tells us that warm feelings without action is not love.
 

**I John 3: 17-18** But whoever has the world’s goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of

**God abide in him? <sup>18</sup> Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.**

## **II. From the beginning Christians have fulfilled this responsibility to love.**

### **A. The very first Christians regularly met the financial needs of others.**

1. **Read ... Acts 2: 37-47**
2. They sacrificed for each other.
3. People were impressed by their character and drawn to them.

### **B. This was not a once or twice kind of thing, but a lifestyle.**

1. **Read ... Acts 4: 32-37**
2. They were taking care of their widows on a daily basis.  
**Acts 6: 1- Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food.**

### **C. It was a lifestyle with a high price.**

1. People who had property were selling it to maintain this benevolence.
  - a. **Remember ... Acts 2:45**
  - b. **Remember Barnabas ... Acts 4:36-37**
2. Not everyone had enough faith to live this lifestyle.
  - a. **Ananias, with his wife Sapphira ... Acts 5: 1ff**
  - b. They wanted to do it, but had the same problem as the “rich young ruler.” **Mat 19**
3. Have you ever personally known anyone who sold his property to give to meet the needs of anyone outside his immediate family ? **Rarely**
4. Leaving one's possessions to the church in his will is more common.
  - a. He has no further use for it and can't take it so he sends it on to meet him.
  - b. This is helpful, but it requires neither faith nor sacrifice.

## **III. We help based upon need.**

### **A. It is not loving a brother to facilitate his laziness.**

1. **Read ... II Thes. 3: 6-13**
2. Christians are not permitted to take advantage or the kindness of others.

- a. Vs. **13** ... We keep on doing right regardless of what others do.
- b. Our text tells us how to respond when others abuse our goodness. **Luke 6**
- 3. The Apostle instructed the brethren regarding the motive for working and giving.
  - a. **Eph. 4: 28- He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need.**
  - b. *Christians don't work to advance in life*, but to help others meet their needs.

**B. We help others on the basis of observed needs.**

- 1. The theme of the passages we have looked at is to meet needs.
  - a. **Acts 2, 4, 6**
  - b. **James 2**
  - c. **I John 3**
- 2. The emphasis is upon our observing their need, **NOT** their requesting help.
  - a. *Christians are supposed to have a relationship which enables them to know.*
  - b. This applies to the spiritual needs as well as to physical needs. **Gal. 6: 1-2**

**C. Part of the elders' and preacher's responsibility is to teach Christians to be oriented toward meeting the needs of others.**

- 1. **Titus 3: 14- Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.**
  - a. Notice this involves “**deeds.**”
  - b. **Also** ... those who do not do these deeds are considered “**unfruitful**” by God.
- 2. The attitude displayed in doing these deeds is important to God.
  - a. The Apostle described our Lord Jesus the Christ as the one **who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.** ( **Titus 2: 14** )
  - \*\*\* *Jesus wants a people who **want to DO what He wants us to do.** ( cf- Acts 10:38 )*
  - b. **Titus 3: 1- Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed, ( *Not need compelled* )**

**D. Our text clearly states that meeting needs is not based on relationship.**

- 1. We have no relationship with our enemies, but we must treat them lovingly.
- 2. We are commanded to do good to outsiders when we have opportunity.  
**Read ... Gal. 6: 6-10**
- 3. We have a responsibility to help those in other congregations.

- a. **Read ... I Cor. 16: 1-4**
- b. Congregations from at least two provinces were sending money to Judea.
- c. *There is but ONE BODY of Christ and it is not any single congregation.*

#### IV. Giving is an opportunity for all regardless of circumstances.

##### A. Giving is not just for the rich.

- 1. It is often more difficult for the rich to give sacrificially.
- 2. They can give large amounts and still have plenty left.

##### B. Our brethren in Macedonia gave out of their poverty.

- 1. **II Cor. 8: 1-5** Now, brethren, we *wish* to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, **2** that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality. **3** For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, *they gave* of their own accord, **4** begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints, **5** and *this*, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.
- 2. This impoverished people were held up as an example for those more well off.
  - a. Corinth was one of the three most prosperous cities in Greece.
  - b. **I Cor. 1-3** ... The Corinthians were yet carnally minded.
  - c. The brethren in Macedonia had given themselves to the Lord. **II Cor. 8:5**
- 3. Those who have not given themselves to the Lord love THIS world. **I John 2: 15**

##### C. Sharing our physical possessions is a form of worship.

- 1. **Heb. 13: 15-16** Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.  
**16** And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

#### V. God rewards those who sacrifice because of their love for Him.

##### A. Many in the world teach a gospel of prosperity

- 1. **This is a form of FALSE RELIGION.**
- 2. It teaches people ungodly motives which rob them of their reward.
- 3. **ILL. -** Young man was bitter because he had sent all his money to a TV preacher and could not pay his bills.

**Bitter against all religion because the TV preacher had promised that God would multiply his money .**

**The TV preacher had cost the young man his soul.**

**B. God will bless those who give, but the blessings are not always physical.**

1. Anything that is physical is temporary.
  - a. This world is perishing.
  - b. All that is in it is perishing.
2. We can take nothing with us from this world to the next.
  - a. We come out of the womb with nothing and totally dependent. ( *no checkbook* )
  - b. We enter the next world the same as we enter this one.
3. The only way we can transfer anything from this world to the next is to transfer it now, i.e., to send it on ahead.

**C. God blesses us with eternal treasures.**

1. **Matt. 6: 19-21** Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21 for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
2. **I Tim. 6: 17-19** Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. 18 Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.

*\* The act of sharing is the act of laying up treasure.*

**D. God blesses us in direct proportion to the amount of blessing we give others.**

1. The law of sowing and reaping is an eternal law.
  - a. The return is always the same kind, but not the same quantity.  
( ILL : *1 corn seed yields approximately 800 kernels , i.e., one cob* )
  - b. It is the same in the spiritual realm :  
**Gal. 6: 7-8** Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.
2. The return we receive is proportionate to what we give.  
**Luke 6: 38-** Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good

measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.”

### CONCLUSION :

What measure do you want God to use in blessing you ?

### Lesson Text :

#### Luke 6: 27-38

**27** “But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, **28** bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. **29** Whoever hits you on the cheek, offer him the other also; and whoever takes away your coat, do not withhold your shirt from him either. **30** Give to everyone who asks of you, and whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back. **31** Treat others the same way you want them to treat you. **32** If you love those who love you, what credit is *that* to you? For even sinners love those who love them. **33** If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is *that* to you? For even sinners do the same. **34** If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is *that* to you? Even sinners lend to sinners in order to receive back the same *amount*. **35** But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil *men*. **36** Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

**37** Do not judge, and you will not be judged; and do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; pardon, and you will be pardoned. **38** Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, *and* running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.”

**In Text Scriptures :**

( #1 of 3 )

**I John 4: 7-12**

**7** Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. **8** The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. **9** By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. **10** In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. **11** Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. **12** No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.

**Acts 2: 37-47**

**37** Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?” **38** Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39** For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.” **40** And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation!” **41** So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. **42** They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. **43** Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. **44** And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; **45** and they *began* selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. **46** Day by day continuing with one

mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,

**47** praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

**In Text Scriptures:**

( #2 of 3 )

### **Acts 4: 32-37**

**32** And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one *of them* claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them. **33** And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all. **34** For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales **35** and lay them at the apostles' feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need. **36** Now Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth, who was also called Barnabas by the apostles (which translated means Son of Encouragement), **37** and who owned a tract of land, sold it and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

### **II Thes. 3: 6-13**

**6** Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us. **7** For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you, **8** nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we *kept* working night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you; **9** not because we do not have the right *to this*, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, so that you would follow our example. **10** For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either. **11** For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies. **12** Now such persons we command and exhort in

the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread. **13** But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good.

### In Text Scriptures:

( #3 of 3 )

#### **Gal. 6: 6-10**

**6** The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches *him*. **7** Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. **8** For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. **9** Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. **10** So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

#### **I Cor. 16: 1-4**

**1** Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. **2** On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come. **3** When I arrive, whomever you may approve, I will send them with letters to carry your gift to Jerusalem; **4** and if it is fitting for me to go also, they will go with me.