

THE GOSPEL FOR EVERYDAY CHRISTIAN LIVING

PART THREE

Martin Luther (1483-1546) says, “[The truth of the Gospel] is also the principal article of all Christian doctrine. . . . Most necessary is it therefore, that we should know this article well, teach it unto others, and beat it into their heads continually.”

4) WE MUST PREACH THE GOSPEL TO OURSELVES EVERY DAY TO PRACTICE LOVING ONE ANOTHER IN THE CHURCH.

An introduction to Thomas Watson’s book “The Duty of Self-Denial”:
Christianity today is characterized by individualism, comfort, and self-indulgence.
HOW SAD!

Paul David Tripp: The DNA of sin is selfishness, so sin is anti-social. This means that I need to be rescued from me...Jesus and the empty tomb is my rescue.

The Gospel of Christ teaches us to die to self and practice loving one another in the church.

Caution: These Scriptures teach us to show love and not demand love from others.

❖ **Philippians 2:3-11**, “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. **Let EACH OF YOU look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. HAVE THIS MIND [THE GOSPEL MIND] AMONG YOURSELVES, WHICH IS YOURS IN CHRIST JESUS (In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus, NIV)**, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. **And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross (GOSPEL).**”

- Do we come out of our self-absorbed life by beholding the cross of Christ?

❖ **Ephesians 4:32-5:2**, “Be **KIND** to one another, **TENDERHEARTED**, **FORGIVING** one another, **as God in Christ forgave you [GOSPEL]**.”

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And WALK IN LOVE, as **Christ loved us and gave himself up for us [GOSPEL]**, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

- Are we walking in love like Christ?
- ❖ **I John 3:16**, “By this we know love, that **he laid down his life for us (GOSPEL)**, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.”
 - Do we lay down our **time** for our brothers/sisters?
 - Do we lay down our **comforts** for our brothers/sisters?
 - Do we lay down our **money** for our brothers/sisters?
 - Do we lay down our **preferences** for our brothers/sisters?
 - Do we lay down our **offenses** for our brothers/sisters?
- ❖ **I John 4:10-11**, “In this is love, not that we have loved God but that **he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins (GOSPEL)**. Beloved, if God so loved us (**GOSPEL**), we also ought [command] to love [present continuous tense] one another.”

Steven Cole: If everyone were easy to love, we wouldn't need this powerful example of God's love or this strong exhortation to love one another. **The world loves those that love them...Implicit in what John is saying here is that we must love those who may not be especially lovable or easy to love...**There may be people in this church whom you do not like. John says, “Beloved, if God so loved you, you also ought to love that difficult person.” It is in these difficult situations that God's amazing love in Christ shines forth in us. If you're having trouble loving someone, remember that God loved you while you were yet a sinner. He sent His Son to a world that is filled with sin. **If you are His child through the new birth, then you must be the channel for His love to flow to those who may not be very lovable.**

THOSE WHO CANNOT LOVE ONE ANOTHER ARE THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW THE GOSPEL. THOSE WHO KNOW THE GOSPEL CANNOT BUT LOVE ONE ANOTHER. IF YOU WANT TO LEARN TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER, BEHOLD THE CROSS OF CHRIST.

- In light of the gospel, I should see the cross of Christ Jesus as my source, standard and inspiration to practice love.
- In light of the gospel, I should live a life of love.

**WE MUST PREACH THE GOSPEL TO OURSELVES EVERY DAY
TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER.**

**5) WE MUST PREACH THE GOSPEL TO OURSELVES EVERYDAY TO
BE A GOOD CHRISTIAN EMPLOYEE.**

Do you know that many Christians don't have a good testimony in workplace, particularly before their bosses?

Gallup Poll (survey company): Eighty-five percent of workers worldwide admit to hating their jobs. The report says, "Many people in the world hate their job and especially their boss."

Paul R. Stevens, professor of marketplace theology: Do you know that the Christian slaves were working sixteen hours a day for masters that were fornicating with female slaves, making dirty business deals with trades from other parts of the Roman empire and going to baths and the gymnasium at night for orgies?

- ❖ **I Peter 2:**¹⁸ Servants, be subject **[TO PLACE YOURSELF UNDER THE AUTHORITY]** to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle **but also to the unjust [show favouritism, unfair, mistreat].**¹⁹ For this is a gracious thing **[it pleases God and receives commendation from Him]**, when, mindful of God **[this is what is lacking today, mindful of themselves], one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly** [unfair, corrupt, cruel].²⁰ For what credit is it if **[do we earn credits in our account]**, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if **when you do good and suffer for it you endure**, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God **[it pleases God and receives commendation from Him]**.

C H Spurgeon comments... There is no credit in suffering rightfully; the credit is in patiently enduring suffering, which you do not deserve. Not always "sticking up for his rights," as an ungodly man says, but feeling that the greatest right in the world is the right to do without your rights. To suffer wrongfully, will often glorify God much

better than to stand up for what you have a right to be or to have. This is a correction of what we often hear a slandered person say. “So-and-so has been spreading an evil report against me, and I am in bad odour. I should not have minded it if it had been true, but I cannot bear the slander as it is false.” My dear friend, you ought not to mind it if it is not true; but “when ye do well, and suffer for it,” there is then an acceptableness with God if you take it patiently.

Thought: The modern Christians have built such strong egos that they can't digest a little offense, humiliation, and mistreatment. In guarding their egos, they miss great opportunities to please God and be commended by God.

Illustration: Tim Keller's testimony of a non-Christian woman in the church

- ❖ ²¹ For to this [UNJUST SUFFERING] you have been called, because Christ also suffered [UNJUSTLY] for you [GOSPEL], leaving you an example [THE GOSPEL IS AN EXAMPLE], so that you might follow in his steps [SUFFER UNJUSTLY]. YOU CANNOT FOLLOW CHRIST IF YOU ARE UNWILLING TO SUFFER UNJUSTLY ²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly [CHRIST'S SUFFERING ON THE CROSS].

Steven Cole: If our Master's footprints led to the cross where He suffered unjustly, so we can expect to die to self and suffer unjustly. If we respond as He did, people will see our Savior in us. Many people will never read the Bible, but they do read our lives. They should see Christlikeness there, not a defiant spirit of self-will that characterizes those who are living for themselves and the things of this world.

Howard Hendricks tells the story of being on an airliner that was delayed on the ground. Passengers grew increasingly impatient. One obnoxious man kept venting his frustrations on the stewardess. But she responded graciously and courteously in spite of his abuse. After they finally got airborne and things calmed down, Dr. Hendricks called the woman aside and said, “I want to get your name so that I can write a letter of commendation to your employer.” He was surprised when she responded, “Thank you, sir, but I don't work for American Airlines.” He sputtered, “You don't?” “No,” she explained, “I work for my Lord Jesus Christ.” She went on to explain that before

each flight, she and her husband would pray together that she would be a good representative of Christ on her job. She sought to please God first.

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TO BE A GOOD CHRISTIAN EMPLOYEE.**