

BECKY COMBEE MINISTRIES, INC.

Consider Others

I am always astonished by unkind words, rude behavior, and impolite responses. On a recent trip, Wayne and I were almost “mowed down” by a group of people who obviously had one agenda – THEIR OWN. Later, I was thrilled by a young man who stood in the rain to open the door for us. What a loving gesture!

As a Christian, love rules our life. When we were saved, God gave us eternal life, or we might say, the life of the eternal one, and now, we are in His kingdom, the kingdom of God and His beloved Son.¹ In this kingdom, we have a NEW law, a NEW principle, a NEW way of life. This new law is the royal law of love.

In order to obey this great law, God poured His love into our spirit² when we were born again, and with this love, we “love one another.”³ As we study the Scripture, we learn that “one another” includes our brothers and sisters in Christ and also our enemies. Jesus said, “If you are only nice to your friends, you are not better than other people. Even those who don’t know God are nice to their friends.”⁴ Wow! This valuable word from the Lord should guide every relationship.

Of course, it goes without saying, that this

NEW love always follows God. The Word of God declares, “Be imitators of God, as dear children.”⁵ In the Contemporary English Version, we read, “Do as God does,” and in the Message Bible, we hear, “Watch what God does and then you do it.”⁶ When we imitate



God, there are places we will NOT go, words we will NOT say, and activities we REFUSE.

God sent Jesus to die for His enemies. This sacrifice gives us an awesome responsibility to represent Him in our everyday life. I believe this begins with the command of the apostle Paul, “Love is not rude, is not selfish, and does not get upset with others.”⁷ Certainly, we cannot influence others when our contentious words and self-centered behavior testify of a

“push your way to the front” attitude.⁸

In Philippians 2:3, the Contemporary English Version counsels us to, “Consider others more important than yourselves.” The New Century Version says, “When you do things, do not let selfishness or pride be your guide.” This simply means my attitude and conduct do NOT say, “Do for me, give to me, and bring to me.” But, instead, my life always looks to others asking, “How can I help you?”

For years, an example given by a minister of the gospel challenged my own behavior. After preparing breakfast for his wife, he said that he looked over both plates of food in order to give his wife the best one. For me, that was quite overpowering. I found out I often took the biggest piece of pie and choose the whipped cream that was in perfect concentric circles. I decided to change. It is amazing what great, abiding peace is ours when God’s love dominates every area of our lives, even the smallest concern.

I watched one day as a very frail elderly man served his wife. I was almost overcome by his willingness to help her in the face of such inability. She was first in his life, first in his behavior, and his active concern reflected his great love for her. I have not been the same since that day. When I leave this earthly house for my heavenly home, I want the world to say, “My, Becky took such good care of Wayne. She loved him so much.” It is also true that Wayne serves me with all his heart. There can be no doubt of our loving care for one another.

Shouldn’t the sinner, the ungodly, see God’s love in our lives? Doesn’t our behavior affirm His glorious salvation? Certainly, it does! The sinner needs God’s love in his life and our behavior can declare it. We must reflect His great love in everything we do. Think about it.

¹Col 1:13 ²Ro 5:5 ³Jn 13:35 ⁴Mt 5:47 ⁵NCV ⁶NKJ ⁷Eph 5:1

⁸1Co 13:5 ⁹NCV ¹⁰Php 2:3 ¹¹MSG

The sinner isn’t interested in a gospel message that promotes harsh, hard conduct. Would you be? I think not.



Scriptures For Meditation

Philippians 2:3-4

(ERV) In whatever you do, don’t let selfishness or pride be your guide. Be humble, and honor others more than yourselves. Don’t be interested only in your own life, but care about the lives of others too.

(MSG) Don’t push your way to the front; don’t sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don’t be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.

(NLT) Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

(NLV) Nothing should be done because of pride or thinking about yourself. Think of other people as more important than yourself. Do not always be thinking about your own plans only. Be happy to know what other people are doing.

(VOICE) Don’t let selfishness and prideful agendas take over. Embrace true humility, and lift your heads to extend love to others. Get beyond yourselves and protecting your own interests; be sincere, and secure your neighbors’ interests first.