

The Duties of Practical Christianity, Part 2

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Romans 12:9-21.
- B. Paul calls us to abnormal living—it is supernatural.
- C. All theology has as its end the glory of God and pure living. (1 Corinthians 2:1, Ephesians 2)
- D. Conduct should be fitting to the gospel of Christ. (Philippians 2:12)
 - 1. Obedience should come from within because it is a serious thing to obey.
 - 2. Working out one's salvation means to live on the outside what is already on the inside.

II. The first circle: me personally.

- A. Love without hypocrisy. (John 13:34, 1 Corinthians 13)
- B. Hate what is evil.
- C. Stick like glue to what is good.

III. The second circle: the family of God.

- A. We are to have a family like love within the body of Christ. (Matthew 18)
 - 1. If you love God, you love those who belong to him. (1 John 5, 2 Corinthians 12:15)
 - 2. We are to love with a confronting, confirming and caring love. (1 Corinthians 4, Philippians 1:9)
- B. We are to prefer others over ourselves in humility. (Philippians 2:4)
- C. We must be hasty with the work of the Lord. (Galatians 6:9, 2 Thessalonians 3:13, Ecclesiastes 9:10, Matthew 25:26, Isaiah 56:10)

IV. The third circle: God.

- A. We are called to serve the Lord with enthusiasm, excitement and zeal.
- B. We rejoice in hope. We serve because we know about the future dividend. (1 Corinthians 15:58, Romans 8)
- C. We are to be diligently in prayer.

Application Questions:

1. Why is it often difficult to love within the body of Christ? How can we overcome this?

2. What are some practical examples of humility exercised within the body of Christ?

3. What does a more fervent life look like in one's involvement in the church today? Explain.
