

# The **Bible** Unpacked

## 31. Love

### **Comprehensive Study Series**

A compilation of the Bible's teaching  
for believers established in the faith

paul mallison

This series of studies is based on the  
*Comprehensive Edition of The Bible Unpacked.*

There are seven editions of *The Bible Unpacked.*  
These aim to address the needs of  
NON-CHRISTIANS through to MATURE CHRISTIANS,  
from TEENAGERS to ADULTS.

For more information and free downloads go to:  
[www.thebibleunpacked.net](http://www.thebibleunpacked.net)



## An Appeal on Behalf of Persecuted Christians

Over 200 million Christians in at least 60 countries are denied basic human rights solely because of their faith. (Source: World Evangelical Alliance) Every year many Christians are killed because of their faith.

Through prayer, encouragement and practical assistance we can assist and fellowship with persecuted Christians in their suffering. You can play a vital part in this through contacting one of the organizations listed below. Most produce regular news/prayer letters.

### **Barnabas Fund** – [www.barnabasfund.org](http://www.barnabasfund.org)

It provides material and spiritual support in response to needs identified by local Christian leaders.

### **Christian Faith and Freedom** – [www.cffreedom.org](http://www.cffreedom.org)

It advocates on behalf of and aids persecuted Christians.

### **Christian Solidarity International** – [www.csi-int.org](http://www.csi-int.org)

CSI works to defend religious liberty and help persecuted Christians.

### **Christian Solidarity Worldwide** – [www.csw.org.uk](http://www.csw.org.uk)

It advocates for freedom of religion and justice for persecuted believers.

### **Compass Direct** – [www.compassdirect.org](http://www.compassdirect.org)

This is a Christian news service providing news, reports, interviews and analyses of situations facing persecuted Christians.

### **Open Doors** – [sb.od.org](http://sb.od.org); [www.opendoors.org.au](http://www.opendoors.org.au)

It provides Bibles and other Christian materials, to prepare believers for persecution and equip them to maintain a witness to the Gospel.

### **Religious Liberty Commission** – [www.worldevangelicals.org/commissions/rlc/](http://www.worldevangelicals.org/commissions/rlc/); [www.ea.org.au/ea-family/Religious-Liberty.aspx](http://www.ea.org.au/ea-family/Religious-Liberty.aspx)

RLC defends and aids persecuted Christians. See also [www.idop.org](http://www.idop.org)  
Receive weekly updates by sending a blank email to [join-rpb@hub.xc.org](mailto:join-rpb@hub.xc.org).

### **The Bible League** – [www.bibleleague.org/persecuted](http://www.bibleleague.org/persecuted); [www.bibleleague.com](http://www.bibleleague.com)

It supplies Bibles to persecuted Christians and also provides training.

### **Voice of the Martyrs** – [www.persecution.com](http://www.persecution.com); [www.persecution.com.au](http://www.persecution.com.au)

VOM provides Bibles, literature, radio broadcasts and other assistance to help persecuted Christians spread the gospel. They also send material aid.

*Then the King will answer, 'I tell you the truth, anything you did for even the least of my people here, you also did for me.'* Matthew 25:40 NCV

# The Bible Unpacked™

## Comprehensive Study Series

A compilation of the Bible's teaching for believers established in the faith

## 31. Love

Composed by Paul Mallison

Scripture quotations are from the *NET Bible*®, unless otherwise indicated.

*The Bible Unpacked*™ Copyright © 1994–2011 by Paul Mallison. All rights reserved.

**This book may be freely reproduced for use for non-profit Christian purposes.** Free electronic copies may be downloaded at: [www.thebibleunpacked.net](http://www.thebibleunpacked.net). In return, users are asked to increase their support of persecuted Christians (cf. [www.thebibleunpacked.net/persecuted\\_Christians.htm](http://www.thebibleunpacked.net/persecuted_Christians.htm)).

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the **NET Bible**® copyright ©1996–2006 by Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. <http://www.bible.org/> All rights reserved. Scripture quoted by permission.

- Scripture quotations marked “CEV” are from the **Contemporary English Version** Copyright © 1991, 1992, 1995 by American Bible Society. Used by permission.
- Scripture quotations marked “ESV” are taken from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
- Scripture quotations marked “GNT” are from the **Good News Translation in Today’s English Version**- Second Edition Copyright © 1992 by American Bible Society. Used by permission.
- Scripture quotations marked “GW” are taken from **God’s Word**® Copyright 1995 God’s Word to the Nations. Used by permission of Baker Publishing Group. All rights reserved.
- Scripture quotations marked “ISV” are taken from the *Holy Bible: International Standard Version*®, Release 1.44. Copyright © 1996–2007 by The ISV Foundation of Fullerton, California USA. Used by permission of Davidson Press, LLC. All rights reserved internationally.
- Scripture quotations marked “NCV™” are taken from the **New Century Version**®. Copyright © 2005 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.


Quotations of short phrases from other Bible translations are on occasions included in comments on the verses. The copyright notices for these translations are given below.


- Scripture quotations marked “AMP” are taken from the *Amplified*® Bible, Copyright © 1954, 1958, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1987 by The Lockman Foundation. All rights reserved. Used by permission. ([www.Lockman.org](http://www.Lockman.org)).
- Scripture quotations marked “NASB” are taken from the *New American Standard Bible*®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.
- Scripture quotations marked “NLT” are taken from the *Holy Bible, New Living Translation*, copyright 1996. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois 60189. All rights reserved.
- Scripture quotations marked “NKJV” are taken from *The New King James Version* / Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers., Copyright © 1982. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
- Scripture quotations marked “NRSV” are from the *New Revised Standard Version of the Bible*, copyright © 1989 by the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.


This copy uploaded/printed: 26-Feb-11


## Overview of *The Bible Unpacked*


There are seven editions of *The Bible Unpacked*, as shown below. Each edition is an abbreviated version of the next longest edition. As such they have similar structures. Four of the editions have studies based on them, with the same text along with questions. For more details and free downloads of all the material, go to [www.thebibleunpacked.net](http://www.thebibleunpacked.net).


 **Two-Minute Edition:** Key Bible teachings for people “on the run”  
For giving to non-Christians.


 **Pocket Edition:** Key Bible teachings for seekers of truth  
Largely for giving to inquiring non-Christians or young new Christians.

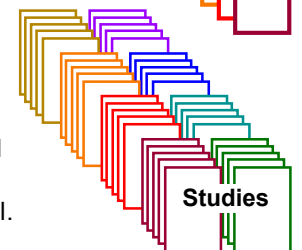
 **Concise Edition:** A look at the Bible’s teaching for new and young believers. For either new or young Christians. Suitable to give to non-Christian friends. Has study series based on it.

 **Foundations Edition:** A compilation of the Bible’s teaching for believers consolidating their faith. For newer Christians. Study series is ideal for studies with newer believers.

 **Intermediate Edition:** A compilation of the Bible’s teaching for believers growing in the faith. For developing a sound understanding of the faith. Studies are excellent for Bible study groups.

 **Comprehensive Edition:** A compilation of the Bible’s teaching for believers established in the faith. For a comprehensive knowledge of the faith. Useful as a study or a devotional tool - and preparing talks. Studies are ideal for studying topics in detail.

 **In-Depth Edition:** A compilation of the Bible’s teaching for teachers and students of the Bible. For Christians keen to gain a deep understanding of their faith. Useful for speakers preparing talks, study groups leaders, Bible students and Bible colleges. It is also in an electronic version, which is a PDF file.



## Section II. What to Do

### Part E. Relating to God

#### 21. Being Right with God

- I. Getting Right with God
- II. Staying Right with God

#### 22. Having Faith in God

- I. Faith and Hope
- II. What Not to Do

#### 23. Loving, Fearing and Obeying God

- I. Loving and Fearing God
- II. Obeying God

#### 24. Connecting with God

- I. Being Close to God
- II. Praying to God

#### 25. Exalting God

- I. Instructions
- II. Reasons to Exalt God

### Part F. Church Life

#### 26. Being One Body

- I. General
- II. Caring for the Body

#### 27. Worshiping God

- I. General
- II. Offerings

#### 28. Serving God

- I. Preliminary Instructions and Insights
- II. Doing God's Work

#### 29. Significant Practices

- I. Symbolic Rites
- II. Other Significant Practices

#### 30. Church Leadership

- I. General
- II. Teaching in the Church

### Part G. Relating to People

#### 31. Love

- I. Loving Qualities
- II. Antitheses of Love

#### 32. Justice

- I. Justice in Action
- II. Being True

#### 33. Wisdom

- I. Being Wise
- II. Antitheses of Wisdom and Knowledge

#### 34. Common Relationships

- I. Family Relationships
- II. Civil Relationships

#### 35. Spreading the Gospel

- I. Instructions
- II. Insights

### Part H. Persevering

#### 36. Standing Firm

- I. General
- II. Spiritual Warfare

#### 37. Rejecting Sin

- I. Encountering Sin
- II. Avoiding Sin and Being Holy

#### 38. Major Pitfalls

- I. Pride
- II. Riches and Sex

#### 39. Hard Times

- I. General
- II. Praying in Hard Times

#### 40. Persecution

- I. The Persecution of God's People
- II. What to Do in Persecution

## Contents

A Quick Word .....	iv
Suggestions for Study Groups .....	v
<b>I. Loving Qualities</b>	
a) Love .....	2
b) Generosity .....	5
c) Mercy .....	7
d) Gentleness .....	10
<b>II. Antitheses of Love</b>	
a) Selfish Attitudes .....	14
b) Ill Feelings .....	16
c) Adverse Speech .....	19
d) Violent Actions .....	21
Topics in This Series .....	23
Overview of <i>The Bible Unpacked</i> .....	25

## A Quick Word

This series of studies aims to present a compilation of the Bible's teachings in a clear and readable order. There are 40 booklets in the series, based on the 40 chapters of the book *The Bible Unpacked - Comprehensive Edition*. Each booklet has two sections, which can be used for two or more studies.

See *Topics in This Series* towards the end of this booklet for a full listing of all the topics. Note that studying booklets alternatively from the two major sections (*What to Know* and *What to Do*) would add variety.

The material contains Bible verses. Before the verses are headings, which reflect what the verses say – in particular the parts of the verses in *italics*. The verses are sometimes followed by a comment.

The verses often have a brief introduction. Usually these state who is speaking and often who they are speaking to. Apart from God and Jesus Christ, the main speakers are:

- Moses – who led the Israelites out of Egypt and taught them God's laws;
- David – Israel's greatest king who wrote many of the psalms, most of which are essentially prayers;
- Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and other prophets – who spoke to the people of Israel on God's behalf; and
- Paul, Peter, John and other leaders of the early church – who spoke to various groups and wrote letters to believers.

Much care has been taken in order to correctly interpret the verses. Nevertheless, if you encounter a verse that is used to teach something that is contrary to or goes beyond your understanding, assess its use by doing such things as: reading the passage it is from; and considering how its teaching fits in with Scripture as a whole (e.g. interpret OT teaching in the light of NT teaching).

For more information on *The Bible Unpacked* and free downloads, go to the website: [www.thebibleunpacked.net](http://www.thebibleunpacked.net)

Paul Mallison

## Topics in This Series

### Section I: What to Know

#### Part A. God and Spiritual Powers

##### 1. God's Being

- I. Basics
- II. God's Pre-Eminence

##### 2. God's Character

- I. Holy Characteristics
- II. Loving Characteristics

##### 3. Jesus Christ

- I. General
- II. Jesus Christ and God

##### 4. The Holy Spirit

- I. General
- II. God, Christ and the Holy Spirit as One

##### 5. Angels, Satan and Demons

- I. Angels
- II. Satan and Demons

#### Part B. God and the World: Basics

##### 6. God's Creation

- I. General
- II. God's Creation of People

##### 7. God's Sovereignty

- I. God's Supreme Authority
- II. God's Control over the World

##### 8. God's Word

- I. General
- II. Key Old Testament Covenants

##### 9. The Problem of Sin

- I. General
- II. The Law's Provision for Israel's Sin

##### 10. God's Judgment

- I. Basics
- II. The Manifestation of God's Judgment

#### Part C. God and the World: Jesus Christ

##### 11. God's Promised Messiah

- I. The Messiah's Identity
- II. The Messiah's Purpose and Person

##### 12. Jesus Christ's Mission

- I. God's Enablement of Jesus Christ
- II. Jesus Christ's Ministry, Death and Resurrection

##### 13. Salvation through Jesus Christ

- I. Salvation from Sin
- II. Salvation for the World

##### 14. The New Order

- I. Jesus Christ and the Law's Diminished Role
- II. Key Elements of the New Order

##### 15. 'The Last Things'

- I. Jesus Christ's Return and the Final Judgment
- II. The Afterlife

#### Part D. God and His Own People

##### 16. The Standing of God's People

- I. Belonging to God
- II. Being 'in' Jesus Christ

##### 17. Keys to God's Interaction with His People

- I. Basics
- II. God's Holy Spirit in His People

##### 18. God's Transformation of His People

- I. General
- II. Spiritual Attributes

##### 19. God's Care of His People

- I. God's Saving of His People
- II. God's Preservation of His People

##### 20. God's Plans for His People

- I. General
- II. God's Plans for Israel

**Do not oppress**

**EZEK 45:9** Thus says the Lord GOD: Enough, O princes of Israel! *Put away violence and oppression, and execute justice and righteousness. Cease your evictions of my people,* declares the Lord GOD. ESV

**EZEK 18:7A** *He* [a righteous person] *doesn't oppress anyone.* GW

What things often lead a person to commit violence?

---



---



---

How should we respond to violence – during it and afterwards?  
(Answer in regard to violence that you may have or could encounter.)

---



---



---

What types of oppression are you aware of, that either you come across yourself or see in society at large? What can you do about it?

---



---



---

**Suggestions for Study Groups****Preliminary matters:**

- Beforehand the leader should: check the context of any verses they are not familiar with; and review the questions. If need be, they should compose questions more applicable to the group.
- Each person should have a Bible, for things such as checking a verse's context. It would also be helpful to have Bible commentaries on hand.
- Pray before beginning the study. Ask God for help in understanding the meaning of the verses and to affect your lives through them. Also pray together at the end.

**Doing the study:**

- Ideally, read the material and answer the questions prior to the meeting. Then share answers and discuss any issues arising from the material in the meeting.
- Alternatively, read the material and answer the questions in the meeting – reading either aloud as a group or individually (prior to sharing answers). If reading as a group, **try having one person read the headings, another read the verses and another read the comments.** Additionally, a fourth person could read the Bible references.
- Answers need not be limited to only what is mentioned in the material.
- The group should feel free to diverge from the study if related issues arise.

**General or concluding questions:**

If time permits, conclude with one or more of the following questions:

- What is something that you either: **did not know** before; gained **greater insight** into; or **needed reminding** of?
- What verse would be helpful to memorize and bear in mind during the next week?
- In taking the verses seriously, is there anything you should change in:
  - (a) how you relate to God or to other people; or
  - (b) any other area of your life (e.g. attitudes, values or behavior)?

If so, are there any specific steps you could take to do this?

## d) Violent Actions

---

### Do not use violence . . .

**JONAH 3:8** [THE KING OF NINEVEH:] Every person and animal must put on sackcloth and must cry earnestly to God, and *everyone must turn from their evil way of living and from the violence that they do.*

### . . . God hates and punishes violence

**MAL 2:16A** “I hate divorce,” says the LORD God of Israel. “*I hate the person who covers himself with violence,*” says the LORD of Armies.

GW

**EZEK 7:23** [GOD:] *Make chains for captives, because the land is full of bloody crimes and the city is full of violence.* NCV™

God would punish his people's violence with captivity.

### Do not murder

**Ex 20:13** *You shall not murder.*

### Do not rape

**DEUT 22:25** [MOSES, TO THE ISRAELITES:] *But if the man came across the engaged woman in the field and overpowered her and raped her, then only the rapist must die.*

The NT does not propagate the death penalty. Nevertheless its mention in regard to such actions (cf. 24:7 ↓) serves to illustrate the seriousness of the crime.

### Do not kidnap

**DEUT 24:7** [MOSES, TO THE ISRAELITES:] *If a man is found kidnapping a person from among his fellow Israelites, and regards him as mere property and sells him, that kidnapper must die.* In this way you will purge evil from among you.

**JAMES 5:9** [JAMES, TO BELIEVERS:] *Do not grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be judged. See, the judge stands before the gates!*

Grumbling or complaining against others is an outward expression of inner condemnatory judgment of them – which leaves oneself open to such judgment.

How can we talk with someone about something on which we disagree without having a quarrel? What should we keep in mind?

---



---



---

Are there any steps we can take to avoid gossiping – both listening to it and doing it?

---



---



---

What do you grumble or complain about? Is there anything you can do about it instead of grumbling?

---



---



---

## I. Loving Qualities

The importance of love could hardly be more emphatically stated by the Bible. Love should encompass every area of our lives and be the basis of all that we do in relating to people. Other personal qualities reflective of love are also regularly applicable in our relationships with other people (and are also discussed in this section).

Note that the teaching in this and the subsequent chapters in *Part G. Relating to People* is also relevant to the preceding part of this book, *Part F. Church Life*.

## a) Love

(⇒ Love Each Other (I): General, in 26. Being One Body; Love Each Other (II): How, in 26. Being One Body)

### What love is . . .

**1COR 13:4–7** *Love is patient, love is kind, it is not envious. Love does not brag, it is not puffed up. <sup>5</sup>It is not rude, it is not self-serving, it is not easily angered or resentful. <sup>6</sup>It is not glad about injustice, but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup>It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

In v. 7, “believes all things, hopes all things” means that love: “...is ever ready to believe the best of every person” and that “its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances...” (AMP).

### . . . Jesus Christ exemplified what love is

**1JN 3:16–18** *This is how we know what love is: Christ gave his life for us. We too, then, ought to give our lives for our brothers and sisters! <sup>17</sup>Rich people who see a brother or sister in need, yet close their hearts against them, cannot claim that they love God. <sup>18</sup>My children, our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action.* GNT

Jesus Christ exemplified love for us (v. 16) and so we should emulate him by living sacrificially for others. As such, we should not merely love with words but with actions and sincerity (vv. 17–18).

### The supremacy of love

**MARK 12:28–33** Now one of the experts in the law came and heard them debating. When he saw that Jesus answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?” <sup>29</sup>Jesus answered, “The most important is: ‘Listen, Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>30</sup>Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ <sup>31</sup>The second is: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” <sup>32</sup>The expert in the law said to him, “That is true, Teacher; you are right to say that he is one, and there is no one else besides him. <sup>33</sup>And to love him with all your heart,

## c) Adverse Speech

### Do not quarrel

**PROV 17:14, 19A** *Starting a quarrel is like a leak in a dam, so stop it before a fight breaks out. . . . <sup>19</sup>Whoever loves to argue loves to sin.* NCV™

### Do not curse

**ROM 12:14** Bless those who persecute you, *bless and do not curse.*

**JAMES 3:9–10** [JAMES, TO BELIEVERS:] *With it [the tongue] we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse people made in God’s image. <sup>10</sup>From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. These things should not be so, my brothers and sisters.*

### Do not mock

**PS 1:1** *Blessed is the person who does not follow the advice of wicked people, take the path of sinners, or join the company of mockers.* GW

### Do not slander . . .

**1PET 2:1** *So get rid of all evil and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.*

### . . . and do not gossip

**PROV 16:28** A perverse person spreads dissension, and *a gossip separates the closest friends.*

### Do not grumble, particularly against others

**PHIL 2:14–15** [PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] *Do everything without grumbling or arguing, <sup>15</sup>so that you may be blameless and pure, children of God without blemish though you live in a crooked and perverse society, in which you shine as lights in the world ...*

How can we get rid of anger?

---



---



---

How can bitterness affect our relationships, even our relationships with people who had nothing to do with the reason for our bitterness?

---



---



---

What kinds of people are often held in contempt by others? How can we avoid showing contempt towards them?

---



---



---

*with all your mind, and with all your strength and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”*

**1COR 12:31B–13:3** [PAUL:] And now I will show you a way that is beyond comparison. <sup>13:1</sup>If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but I do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>And if I have prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so that I can remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>If I give away everything I own, and if I give over my body in order to boast, but do not have love, I receive no benefit. . . . <sup>13</sup>And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.

### So, live a life of love . . .

**2JN 1:6B** As you have heard from the beginning, his [God's] command is this: Live a life of love. NCV™

**EPH 5:2** Live in love as Christ also loved us. He gave his life for us as an offering and sacrifice, a soothing aroma to God. GW

### . . . Do things in love

**1COR 16:14** Everything you do should be done in love.

### Love others as you love yourself . . .

**LEV 19:18** Do not take revenge on anyone or continue to hate him, but love your neighbor as you love yourself. I am the LORD. GNT

### . . . “Love your neighbor as yourself” sums up God’s law

**ROM 13:8–10** Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>For the commandments, “Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not covet,” (and if there is any other commandment) are summed up in this, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

The whole moral law – all that involves our relationships with other people – is summed up by the command to love others as we love ourselves. In doing so, we fulfill or carry out the law.

### Love your enemies and do good to them

**LUKE 6:27–28, 31** [JESUS:] But I say to you who are listening: *Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,*<sup>28</sup> *bleed those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.* ...<sup>31</sup> *Treat others in the same way that you would want them to treat you.*

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (cf. *What love involves*) mentions a number of characteristics of love. Which of these do you: value the most; and need to bear in mind the most (in order to better love others)?

---



---



---

Why are the great things Paul mentions in 1 Corinthians 13:1–3 (cf. *The supremacy of love*) pointless without love?

---



---



---

Do you have enemies? What can you do to love them?

---



---



---

### . . . and do not envy

**1COR 13:4** Love is patient, love is kind, *it is not envious*. Love does not brag, it is not puffed up.

**PROV 14:30** A tranquil heart gives life to the flesh, but *envy makes the bones rot*. ESV

### Do not show contempt

**PROV 18:3** *When wickedness comes, contempt comes also, and with dishonor comes disgrace*. ESV

This shows the evil nature of contempt, indicating that it is or can be bred by wickedness. Note that “contempt” means to regard someone (or something) as inferior, insignificant or foolish.

## b) III Feelings

### Control and avoid anger

**EPH 4:26–27, 31** *When you are angry, do not sin, and be sure to stop being angry before the end of the day.* <sup>27</sup>*Do not give the devil a way to defeat you. . . .* <sup>31</sup>*Do not be bitter or angry or mad. Never shout angrily or say things to hurt others. Never do anything evil.* NCV™

**JAMES 1:19–20** Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters! *Let every person be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger.* <sup>20</sup>*For human anger does not accomplish God's righteousness.*

### Do not hate

**LEV 19:17A** *You must not hate your fellow citizen in your heart.* NCV™

**1JN 4:20** *If anyone says “I love God” and yet hates his fellow Christian, he is a liar, because the one who does not love his fellow Christian whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.*

### Get rid of bitterness and malice

**EPH 4:31** *Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.* ESV

### Do not be jealous . . .

**ROM 13:13** Let us live decently as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, *not in discord and jealousy.*

**PROV 27:4** Wrath is cruel and anger is overwhelming, but *who can stand before jealousy?*

Here “who” may refer to the one who is jealous, rather than the one who is the object of the jealousy. Jealousy has an irresistible, detrimental effect on those in whom it abides – as does envy (cf. Prov 14:30 ↓).

## b) Generosity

### Be generous

**1TIM 6:18** [PAUL, INSTRUCTING TIMOTHY WHAT TO TEACH BELIEVERS:] Tell them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, to *be generous givers, sharing with others.*

**PROV 21:26** All day long he [a lazy person] continues to crave, while *the righteous one gives without holding back.* ISV

### Lend to others

**DEUT 15:8** [MOSES, TO THE ISRAELITES:] *Be generous to these poor people, and freely lend them as much as they need. Never be hard-hearted and tight-fisted with them.* GW

### Share with others

**LUKE 3:11** John answered them, *“The person who has two tunics must share with the person who has none, and the person who has food must do likewise.”*

**HEB 13:16** And do not neglect to do good and to *share what you have, for God is pleased with such sacrifices.*

### Practice hospitality

**ROM 12:13** Contribute to the needs of the saints and *seek to show hospitality.* ESV

**HEB 13:2** *Be sure to welcome strangers into your home. By doing this, some people have welcomed angels as guests, without even knowing it.* CEV

### Generosity actually brings oneself great blessing

**LUKE 6:38** *Give, and it will be given to you: A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be poured into your lap. For the measure you use will be the measure you receive.*

**ACTS 20:35** [PAUL TO THE EPHESIAN ELDERS:] By all these things, I have shown you that by working in this way we must help the weak, and remember the words of the Lord Jesus that he himself said, *'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'*

How can we learn to give “without holding back” (Prov 21:26)? (E.g. What factors should we keep in mind? What attitudes should we develop?)

---



---



---

Who could you share your belongings/food with or show hospitality to? When and how could you go about doing this?

---



---



---

Why is it “more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35)?

---



---



---

*of your husband – how you left your father and your mother, as well as your homeland, and came to live among people you did not know previously.*

If we see selfishness or greed in ourselves, what can we do about it?

---



---



---

What does “coveting” mean? Do you covet anything?

---



---



---

Choose one person that you have a lot of contact with. What is one way or area in which you could put their interests ahead of your own?

---



---



---

## a) Selfish Attitudes

### Do not pursue selfish ends

**PHIL 2:3A** *Don't act out of selfish ambition or be conceited.* GW

**ROM 2:8** ... but *for those who are self-seeking* and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, *there will be wrath and fury.* ESV

### Do not covet . . .

**EX 20:17** *"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."* ESV

We are not to crave or desire anything that belongs to another person.

### . . . and do not be greedy

**MATT 23:25** *How horrible it will be for you, scribes and Pharisees! You hypocrites! You clean the outside of cups and dishes. But inside they are full of greed and uncontrolled desires.* GW

**PROV 28:25** *A greedy man stirs up strife,* but the one who trusts in the LORD will be enriched. ESV

### Instead of being selfish, seek the interests of others before your own . . .

**1COR 10:24, 33** [PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] *None of you should be looking to your own interests, but to the interests of others. . . .<sup>33</sup> Just do as I do; I try to please everyone in all that I do, not thinking of my own good, but of the good of all, so that they might be saved.* GNT

### . . . Do so even at great cost to yourself, as Jesus Christ did

**2COR 8:9** [PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that although he was rich, he became poor for your sakes, so that you by his poverty could become rich.*

**RUTH 2:11** Boaz replied to her [Ruth], "I have been given a full report of *all that you have done for your mother-in-law following the death*

## c) Mercy

Mercy involves such things as: not penalizing those subject to one's judgment and retribution (due to things like wrongful action or debt); and doing more than one is bound to do in helping others. It is showing kindness beyond what is required of one or is otherwise considered fitting.

### Show mercy . . .

**ZEC 7:9B** You must see that justice is done, and must *show kindness and mercy to one another.* GNT

**LUKE 6:36** *Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.*

### . . . Be merciful and God will show you mercy

**MATT 5:7** *Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*

The final clause refers, primarily at least, to being shown mercy by God.

### Moreover, be compassionate

**COL 3:12** [PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] You are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own. So then, *you must clothe yourselves with compassion,* kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. GNT

Compassion is generally the emotion underlying mercy; it is expressed in merciful action.

### Forgive others . . .

**LUKE 17:3–4** Watch yourselves! *If your brother sins, rebuke him. If he repents, forgive him.* <sup>4</sup>*Even if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times returns to you saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him.*

**COL 3:13** Get along with each other, and *forgive each other. If someone does wrong to you, forgive that person because the Lord forgave you.* NCV™

### . . . Forgive and God will forgive you

**MATT 6:14–15** *If you forgive others for the wrongs they do to you, your Father in heaven will forgive you. <sup>15</sup>But if you don't forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.* CEV

### Do not judge others . . .

**JAMES 4:12** But there is only one who is lawgiver and judge – the one who is able to save and destroy. On the other hand, *who are you to judge your neighbor?*

We are not to judge others in a condemnatory manner, as if we were in some position of authority to do so; nor in a self-righteous sense, which is inevitably hypocritical. Note, however, that there are Bible verses instructing us to make judgments or choices regarding good and bad people or things.

### . . . If you judge others, God will judge you accordingly

**MATT 7:1–2** *Do not judge others, so that God will not judge you, <sup>2</sup>for God will judge you in the same way as you judge others, and he will apply to you the same rules you apply to others.* GNT

We will all face God's judgment but the above passage speaks of the same condemnatory standard of judgment being applied by God to those who exercise it themselves.

### **Note: Human judgment is typically superficial and inadequate, in contrast to God's judgment**

**1SAM 16:6–7** When they arrived, *Samuel noticed Eliab and said to himself, "Surely, here before the LORD stands his chosen king!" <sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to Samuel, "Don't be impressed by his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. God does not view things the way men do. People look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."*

## II. Antitheses of Love

We have various tendencies that work counter to love. These largely involve selfish attitudes and ill feelings – along with the adverse speech and actions that they produce. These greatly inhibit and harm our relationships with others, and must be avoided.

In what ways/situations do you demonstrate gentleness? In what other ways/situations could you do so?

---



---



---

Consider the principles/actions proposed in Matthew 5:38-42 (*Be Meek...*). Can you think of a situation you may well find yourself in, where one of these could be applied?

---



---



---

Is there some way that you could promote peace between yourself and another person – or between two other people or groups?

---



---



---

How can a person become more compassionate?

---



---



---

How are we better off for forgiving others?

---



---



---

In what ways do you judge others? How can you avoid doing this?

---



---



---

## d) Gentleness

(⇒ *Antithesis of Pride: Humility*, in 38. *Major Pitfalls*)

### Be gentle

**PHIL 4:5A** *Let everyone see your gentleness.*

**1PET 3:3–4** [PETER, ADDRESSING WIVES:] Your beauty should not be an external one, consisting of braided hair or the wearing of gold ornaments and dresses. <sup>4</sup>Instead, it should be the inner disposition of the heart, consisting in *the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great value in the sight of God.* ISV

### Be patient

**EPH 4:1–2** [PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] I, therefore, the prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live worthily of the calling with which you have been called, <sup>2</sup>with all humility and gentleness, *with patience, bearing with one another in love, ...*

**1THES 5:14B** [PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] Encourage anyone who feels left out, help all who are weak, and *be patient with everyone.* CEV

### Be meek . . .

**MATT 5:38–42** [JESUS:] *You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’* <sup>39</sup>*But I say to you, do not resist the evildoer. But whoever strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other to him as well.* <sup>40</sup>*And if someone wants to sue you and to take your tunic, give him your coat also.* <sup>41</sup>*And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two.* <sup>42</sup>*Give to the one who asks you, and do not reject the one who wants to borrow from you.*

The concept of “meekness” involves an approach of non-retaliation and even non-resistance in the face of offences. It is characterized by humility and gentleness.

The command “do not resist the evildoer” (v. 39a) is given in respect to one’s own rights; it is not saying that we should not stand against an evil person on behalf of others. The illustrations that follow (vv. 39b–42) show that one should not retaliate and not insist on one’s rights. Some commentators view these as

hyperbole, while others consider such a view to be watering down the extent of what is being taught.

### . . . So do not take revenge, but instead wait for God to act

**ROM 12:19** *Do not take revenge, dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath. For it is written, “Vengeance belongs to me. I will pay them back, declares the Lord.”* ISV

**PROV 20:22** *Don’t say, “I’ll pay you back for the wrong you did.” Wait for the LORD, and he will make things right.* NCV™

### Seek peace, including peace with others . . .

**PS 34:14** Turn away from evil and do good; *seek peace and pursue it.* ESV

**ROM 12:18** *Do everything possible on your part to live in peace with everybody.* GNT

### . . . and seek peace amongst others

**PROV 12:20** Deceit is in the heart of those who plot evil, but *those who promote peace have joy.*

**MATT 5:9** *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God.*

People who “work for peace” (GNT, NLT, cf. NCV) will be deemed to be children of God because they show that they partake of his nature.