



MAIN SCRIPTURES

- Matthew 6:2; Romans 12:3
- Phil. 2:3-4; 1 Cor. 10:24

SURRENDER MY SELF

- Surrender Ego
- Practice Preferring Others

FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURES:

“Therefore, when you do merciful deeds, **don’t sound a trumpet before yourself**, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, **that they may get glory from men**. Most certainly I tell you, **they have received their reward**.” Matthew 6:2 WEBUS

“For I say through the grace that was given me, to everyone who is among you, **not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think; but to think reasonably**, as God has apportioned to each person a measure of faith.” Romans 12:3 WEBUS

“doing nothing through rivalry or through conceit, but **in humility, each counting others better than himself**; each of you **not just looking to his own things, but each of you also to the things of others**.” Philippians 2:3-4 WEBUS

“No one should seek their own good, **but the good of others**.”
1 Corinthians 10:24 NIV

INTRODUCTION:

Cease resistance; abandon control of your life entirely, and come into complete submission to God. That's what it means to surrender. When Y'shua returns, some of you will be like Him. And for that transformation to occur, it requires that you surrender your ego and practice preferring others. Pray this without ceasing: "I am not the center of the universe, nor do I need to be the center of attention. My focus is God first, others next, and only then will I consider myself. I am important only inasmuch as I am in service to God by using what gifts and talents He has placed within me. My life will emulate the life of my blessed Savior, 'I can of myself do nothing'". Whoever won't regard the needs of others over their own needs simply won't become like Him.

SURRENDER THAT ANYTHING IS ABOUT ME!

1. Surrender My Self: Surrender Ego & Practice Preferring Others

A. Surrender Ego

(1) **Introduction:** Surrender that anything is about me!

(a) **Surrender Ego:** Abandon the self-centered, self-focussed, self-important, narcissistic life. Don't have an excessive opinion of yourself or regard yourself first.

1. "Therefore, when you do merciful deeds, **don't sound a trumpet before yourself**, as the hypocrites do in the

synagogues and in the streets, **that they may get glory from men.** Most certainly I tell you, they have received their reward.” Matthew 6:2 WEBUS

a) Let us begin with Y’shua as our quintessential example of a man who abandoned His ego.

1) “*I can **of myself** do nothing...*” John 5:30
WEBUS

b) Paul, predictively followed suit...

1) “*For I know that **in me**, that is, in my flesh, dwells no good thing.* For desire is present with me, but I don’t find it doing that which is good.”
Romans 7:18 WEBUS

c) And James humbly agreed...

1) “**Every good gift and every perfect gift** is from above, **coming down from the Father** of lights, with whom can be no variation nor turning shadow.” James 1:17 WEBUS

d) Without God working in us, this is the best we will ever be...

1) “**The heart** *[without God]* **is deceitful** above all things and **it is exceedingly corrupt.** Who can know it?” Jeremiah 17:9

2) “for **all have sinned, and fall short** of the glory of God;” Romans 3:23 WEBUS

(b) Be wary of anyone who looks to glorify himself and boast in his own accomplishments and not in God!

Y’shua would not take credit, and yet this is His resume:

1. “He said to him, “Why do you call Me good? **No one is good but One, that is, God...**”” Matthew 19:17 NKJV

2. “**All things were made through him. Without him, nothing was made that has been made.**” John 1:3 WEBUS “

3. For **by him all things were created in the heavens and on the earth**, visible things and invisible things, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. **All things have been created through him and for him.**” Colossians 1:16 WEBUS

a) Y’shua had His hand in every part of creation, and yet this is what He said about Himself:

1) ““**If I testify about myself, my witness is not valid.** It is another who testifies about me. I know that the testimony which he testifies about me is true. {34} But **the testimony which I receive is not from man.** However, I say these

things that you may be saved. {37} **The Father himself, who sent me, has testified about me.** You have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his form. {41} **I don't receive glory from men.** {44} **How can you believe, who receive glory from one another, and you don't seek the glory that comes from the only God?"**
John 5:31-32, 34, 37, 41, 44 WEBUS

2) "Jesus therefore answered them, "My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me. If anyone desires to do his will, he will know about the teaching, whether it is from God or if I am speaking from myself. **He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory, but he who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.**" John 7:16-18 WEBUS

3) "Pray like this: "**Our Father** in heaven, **may your name be kept holy.**" Matthew 6:9 WEBUS

(c) Even Paul gave credit to whom credit is due. And he admonished us to, "Be **imitators of me**, even **as I also am of Christ.**" 1 Corinthians 11:1 WEBUS

1. "I have therefore **my boasting in Christ Jesus** in things pertaining to God." Romans 15:17 WEBUS

2. "For **I will not dare to speak of any things except those which Christ worked through me** for the obedience of the Gentiles, by word and deed," Romans 15:18 WEBUS
3. "that, as it is written, "**He who boasts, let him boast in the Lord.**" 1 Corinthians 1:31 WEBUS
4. "But **far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ**, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." Galatians 6:14 WEBUS
5. "He has said to me, "**My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.**" Most gladly therefore **I will rather glory in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest on me.** Therefore I take pleasure in weaknesses, in injuries, in necessities, in persecutions, and in distresses, for Christ's sake. **For when I am weak, then am I strong.**" 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 WEBUS

(2) Surrender your self-centered life!

(a) Do you crave to be noticed? Do you desire to be the center of attention?

1. "In his teaching he said to them, "Beware of the scribes, who like to **walk in long robes**, and to **get**

greetings in the marketplaces, and to get **the best seats** in the synagogues and **the best places** at feasts, those who devour widows' houses, and **for a pretense make long prayers**. These will receive greater condemnation."" Mark 12:38-40 WEBUS

- a) Y'shua says to beware of anyone who walks into the room and immediately draws attention to himself because of the clothes he wears, or because he gathers people around him so he might receive a special welcome.
- b) Be immediately suspicious of anyone who needs to sit in the seat of honor or who tries to impress you with his sophisticated, rehearsed prayers.
 - 1) *“**When you pray, you shall not be as the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men.** Most certainly, I tell you, they have received their reward. But you, **when you pray, enter into your inner room, and having shut your door, pray to your Father who is in secret;** and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. **In praying, don't use vain repetitions** as the*

*Gentiles do; for they think that **they will be heard for their much speaking.***” Matthew 6:5-7

WEBUS

(3) Surrender your self-focussed life!

(a) Are you seeking to be honored by men?

1. “But they do all their works **to be seen by men.** They **make their phylacteries broad** and **enlarge the fringes** of their garments, and **love the place of honor** at feasts, the **best seats** in the synagogues, **the salutations** in the marketplaces, and **to be called ‘Rabbi, Rabbi’** by men.” Matthew 23:5-7 WEBUS

a) Here are some considerations. If any of these apply, you are at risk of being too focused on yourself! You are in love with the idea of...

- 1) ...your superior religious practices (spiritual pride!).
- 2) ...receiving honor for your accomplishments.
- 3) ...being called by man-made titles.
- 4) “But **you are not to be called ‘Rabbi’**, for one is your teacher, the Christ, and all of you are brothers. **Call no man on the earth your father**, for one is your Father, he who is in heaven.

Neither be called masters, for one is your master, the Christ." Matthew 23:8-10 WEBUS

(4) Surrender your self-important life!

(a) Are you in need of feeling important? Do you elevate yourself?

1. "He also spoke this parable to certain people who were **convinced of their own righteousness, and who despised all others:** "Two men went up into the temple to pray; one was a Pharisee, and the other was a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed by himself like this: 'God, **I thank you that I am not like the rest of men:** extortionists, unrighteous, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. **I fast** twice a week. **I give tithes** of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far away, **wouldn't even lift up his eyes** to heaven, but beat his chest, saying, '**God, be merciful to me, a sinner!**' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for **everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.**"'" Luke 18:9-14
WEBUS

- a) Here are some considerations. If any of these apply, you are at risk of being too important in your own eyes! You are convinced...
 - 1) ...of your own righteousness (self-righteousness: somehow you can achieve righteousness apart from God).
 - 2) ...that others are clearly inferior to you.
 - 3) ...that you are far beyond those who are dreadful sinners.
 - 4) ...that your spiritual disciplines make you outstanding.
 - 5) **Note to self:** if you exalt your self-importance; God will surely humble you!
- (5) Surrender your narcissistic life!
 - (a) Do you find yourself singing in the shower... “Me—me—me—me?” Are you always on your mind?
 - 1. **““When you are invited** by anyone to a wedding feast, **don’t sit in the best seat**, since **perhaps someone more honorable than you might be invited** by him, and he who invited both of you would come and tell you, ‘Make room for this person.’ Then you would begin, with shame, to take the lowest place. **But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest**

place, so that when he who invited you comes, he may tell you, '**Friend, move up higher.**' **Then you will be honored** in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. **For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.**'" Luke 14:8-11 WEBUS

- a) Here is an important consideration: If this applies to you, you have a narcissistic tendency.
 - 1) Do you feel that you need to be or deserve to be the central figure in every situation? Be honest!
 - 2) Is it hard for you to accept or even imagine that someone else is more important, more worthy, and more deserving of honor than you?
 - 3) **Advice:** *"Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips."* Proverbs 27:2 WEBUS
 - 4) **Note:** exalt in your narcissism and God **WILL** humble you!
- 6. Don't have excessive opinion of yourself.
 - (a) None of this is to be taken as if it is proper to be self-disparaging or self-effacing. Every child of God has a

high calling and great significance. But that is only true in the Lord. Beyond what He is doing in your life, you ought not to have a high opinion of yourself.

1. “For I say **through the grace that was given me**, to everyone who is among you, **not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think**; but to think reasonably, as **God has apportioned to each** person a measure of faith.” Romans 12:3 WEBUS

a) God’s grace is responsible for anything good in you. You should not think too highly of yourself except in what God has imparted to you and for that which you are to be a good steward.

1) “Do you see **a man wise in his own eyes**? There is **more hope for a fool** than for him.” Proverbs 26:12 WEBUS

2) “Therefore **let him who thinks he stands be careful** that he doesn’t fall.” 1 Corinthians 10:12 WEBUS

2. “For **if a man thinks himself to be something when he is nothing, he deceives himself**. But **let each man examine his own work, and then [if he concludes he’s achieved anything good on his own] he will have reason to boast in himself**, and not in someone else.

For **each man will bear his own burden.**" Galatians 6:3-5

- a) Self-deception is the most dangerous deception of all. If you think you are "something" outside of your relationship with God, you suffer from the greatest form of self-deception!
- b) Here is a self-examination you can perform to prevent or mitigate this malignant type of deception:
 - 1) Examine yourself (do not include that which comes from the Lord): if you are good on your own, then you have reason to boast in yourself, and you are not required that anyone else affirm your wonderful opinion of yourself.
- c) But remember these three things as you reflect:
 - 1) The burden of proof is on you (Galatians 6:5).
 - 2) In you there is nothing good (Romans 7:18).
 - 3) Everyone falls short of God's standards (Romans 3:23).

(7) Don't regard yourself first.

- (a) Do you find that you consider yourself your top priority?
 - 1. "[of] All things [that] are lawful for me," but not all things are profitable. "[of] All things [that] are lawful

for me," but not all things build up *[edify]*. **Let no one seek his own, but each one his neighbor's good."**

1 Corinthians 10:23-24

- a) Everything that is permitted by God may not be most beneficial to you or others in every circumstance.
- b) In other words, even if God's law permits something, not every choice you make will edify others in a particular situation.
- c) When in doubt, the godly thing to do is to consider what is best for others and seek to bless them before seeking to meet your own needs.

B. Practice Preferring Others

(1) This is certainly one thing that cannot be faked!

(a) **Practice Preferring Others:** Place the interests of others above your own!

- 1. "doing nothing through **rivalry** or through **conceit**, but **in humility, each counting others better than himself**; each of you **not just looking to his own things, but each of you also to the things of others.**"

Philippians 2:3-4 WEBUS

- a) Do not behave like this...

- 1) **Rivalry:** the need to compete and especially for superiority.
- 2) **Conceit:** excessive pride in oneself; vanity, narcissism, egotism, arrogance.
- 3) **Prioritizing yourself:** your things and your needs take precedence over others'.

b) Do behave like this...

- 1) **Humility:** the quality of having a modest view of one's value or importance.
- 2) **Prioritizing others:** their things and their needs above your own.

(2) In honor prefer one another...

(a) Love others and be tenderly affectionate to one another.

1. **"Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor that which is evil. Cling to that which is good. In love of the brothers be tenderly affectionate to one another; in honor prefer one another, not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord, rejoicing in hope, enduring in troubles, continuing steadfastly in prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, and given to hospitality."** Romans 12:9-13 WEBUS

- a) **End the hypocrisy:** Don't just say you are a Christian; act like one!

1) **Abhor evil & cling to good:** *"Hate evil, love good, and establish justice in the courts. It may be that **Yahweh**, the God of Armies, **will be gracious** to the remnant of Joseph."* Amos 5:15
WEBUS

2) **Be tenderly affectionate:** *"Finally, all of you be like-minded, compassionate, **loving as brothers, tenderhearted**, courteous, not **rendering evil for evil or insult for insult; but instead blessing**, knowing that **you were called to this**, that you may inherit a blessing."* 1 Peter 3:8-9
WEBUS

3) **Honor others:** *"but **God chose the foolish things of the world** that he might put to shame those who are wise. **God chose the weak things of the world** that he might put to shame the things that are strong. **God chose the lowly things of the world**, and the things that are despised, and the things that don't exist, **that he might bring to nothing** the things that exist, **that no flesh should boast before God.**"*
1 Corinthians 1:27-29
WEBUS

- b) **Can you imagine:** what would this world be like if everyone who claimed to be a Christian diligently lived like they were?
- 1) **Fervent in spirit:** *“For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but **those who live according to the Spirit,** the things of the Spirit. {9} But **you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if it is so that the Spirit of God dwells in you.** But if any man doesn’t have the Spirit of Christ, he is not his.”*
Romans 8:5, 9 WEBUS
 - 2) **Serving the Lord:** *“And **whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord** and not for men,”*
Colossians 3:23 WEBUS
 - 3) **Enduring in troubles:** *“Not only this, but **we also rejoice in our sufferings,** knowing that suffering produces perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;”* Romans 5:3-4 WEBUS
 - 4) **Rejoicing in hope:** *“and **hope doesn’t disappoint us,** because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”* Romans 5:5 WEBUS

- 5) **Steadfast in prayer:** *“Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. **The insistent prayer of a righteous person is powerfully effective.**”* James 5:16

WEBUS

- 6) **Contributing to needs:** *“They sold their possessions and goods, and distributed them to all, **according as anyone had need.**”* Acts 2:45

WEBUS

- 7) **Given to hospitality:** *“**Be hospitable** to one another without grumbling.”* 1 Peter 4:9 WEBUS
(You never know, you just might be entertaining angels—Hebrews 13:2)

(3) Two critical components of preferring others...

- (a) **NUMBER 1:** “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

1. *““‘**You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him.**”* “‘You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people; but **you shall love your neighbor as yourself.** I am Yahweh.” Leviticus 19:17-18 WEBUS

- a) When you love your brother, you won't stand by and watch him sin. You will admonish him and correct him with a pure heart.
- b) **Speak the truth in love:** Your intention should be to help him mature in his faith.
 - 1) *"that we may **no longer be children, tossed back and forth** and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in craftiness, after the wiles of error; **but speaking truth in love**, we may **grow up** in all things into him who is the head, Christ,"* Ephesians 4:14-15
WEBUS
- c) **Restore others in a spirit of gentleness:** First take a look at your own sin, and then correct others. This is not a suggestion; it is your responsibility because you are called to bear one another's burdens!
 - 1) *Brothers, even if a man is caught in some fault, **you who are spiritual must restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, looking to yourself so that you also aren't tempted. Bear one another's burdens**, and so fulfill the law of Christ."*
Galatians 6:1-2 WEBUS

- 2) **You cannot correct in others what you will not correct in yourself.** Y'shua said... *"How can you tell your brother, 'Brother, let me remove the speck of chaff [sin] that is in your eye,' when you yourself don't see the beam [sin] that is in your own eye? You hypocrite! First remove the beam [sin] from your own eye, and then you can see clearly to remove the speck of chaff [sin] that is in your brother's eye."* Luke 6:42
- 3) First, correct the sin in your own life. How?
"For the word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and is able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart." Hebrews 4:12 WEBUS
- 4) **Become accountable to the Lord:** *"There is no creature that is hidden from his sight, but **all things are naked and laid open before** the eyes of **him** to whom we must give an account."* Hebrews 4:13 WEBUS

- 5) **Then grow into a mature adult Christian...** *“For everyone who lives on milk is not experienced in the word of righteousness, for he is a baby. But **solid food is for those who are full grown**, who by reason of use have **their senses exercised to discern good and evil.**”* Hebrews 5:13-14

WEBUS

- 6) **That is when you will...** *“be ready to **correct all disobedience** when your **obedience is complete.**”* 2 Corinthians 10:6
- d) Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. **You are your brother's keeper!** That is why you can't just stand by and let sin go unchecked!
- 1) *“The man knew Eve his wife. She conceived, and gave birth to Cain, and said, “I have gotten a man with Yahweh's help.” Again she gave birth, to Cain's brother Abel. **Abel was a keeper of sheep**, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. As time passed, Cain brought an offering to Yahweh from the fruit of the ground. **Abel** also **brought** some of **the firstborn** of his flock and of its fat. Yahweh respected Abel and his offering, but he*

*didn't respect Cain and his offering. Cain was very angry, and the expression on his face fell. Yahweh said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why has the expression of your face fallen? If you do well, won't it be lifted up? **If you don't do well, sin crouches at the door. Its desire is for you, but you are to rule over it.**" Cain said to Abel, his brother, "Let's go into the field." While they were in the field, Cain rose up against Abel, his brother, and killed him. **Yahweh said to Cain, "Where is Abel, your brother?"** He said, "I don't know. **Am I my brother's keeper?**"*

Genesis 4:1-9 WEBUS

e) **Your ministry (in Him):** your calling to turn sinners from their evil ways...

1) *"let him know that **he who turns a sinner from the error** of his way will save a soul from death and **will cover a multitude of sins.**" James 5:20*
WEBUS

f) **Your authority (in Him):** your right to forgive sin...

1) *"**If you forgive anyone's sins, they have been forgiven them.** If you retain anyone's sins, they have been retained." John 20:23* WEBUS

g) **Your Love (in Him):** your ability to cover sin...

1) *“And above all things **be earnest in your love** among yourselves, for **love covers a multitude of sins.**”* 1 Peter 4:8 WEBUS

h) Oh, the joy when one sinner repents...

1) *“I tell you that even so **there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents,** than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.”* Luke 15:7 WEBUS

(b) **NUMBER 2:** You are free, but only to the extent that you do not exercise that freedom in such a way that it harms another!

1. “For you, brothers, were **called for freedom.** Only **don’t use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love be servants to one another.** For the whole law is fulfilled in one word, in this: **“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”** But if you bite and devour one another, **be careful that you don’t consume [destroy] one another.”** Galatians 5:13-15

a) Your freedom is meant to demonstrate your love for others through service!

- b) The more knowledgeable you are in the things of God, the more free you become...
- c) However, be careful! Don't exercise any of your liberties in Christ in such a way that they potentially harm others!
- 1) *"But be careful that by no means **does this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to the weak**. For if a man **sees you who have knowledge** sitting in an idol's temple *[doing things you know are permitted, yet he remains unsure about]*, **won't his conscience, if he is weak, be emboldened to** eat things sacrificed to idols *[do what is actually permitted but what he still believes is not permitted]*? And through your knowledge *[liberty to do what is otherwise permitted by God]*, he who is weak perishes *[stumbles: feels guilt, shame, and regret]*, the brother for whose sake Christ died. **Thus, sinning against the brothers, and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ**. Therefore, **if food** *[or any permitted thing]* **causes my brother to stumble, I will eat no meat forever more** *[nor ever**

exercise my right even when I know it is permitted], that I don't cause my brother to stumble." 1 Corinthians 8:9-13 WEBUS

2. Are you your brother's keeper? Yes, be careful that any **liberty of yours does not become a stumbling block to a weaker brother** (lesson from Romans 14).
 - a) "Now **accept one who is weak in faith**, but not for disputes over opinions. One man has faith to eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables." Romans 14:1-2 WEBUS
 - 1) Be sensitive to the level of maturity of one who is weak in his faith, and don't cause disputes over things about which those who are weak have confusion and doubts.
 - 2) One man is mature enough in his faith, and thus knowledgeable about all the meats he is permitted to eat by law.
 - 3) However, he who is weak and immature in his faith eats only vegetables because he is uneducated about which meats are permitted and which are off-limits, and thus he plays it safe by eating only vegetables.

b) “For **none of us lives to himself, and none dies to himself.** For if we live, we live to the Lord. Or if we die, we die to the Lord. If therefore we live or die, we are the Lord’s.” Romans 14:7-8 WEBUS

- 1) Be reminded of this overarching truth for all Christians: we are no longer supposed to live with our own lives as the top priority; instead, we are to live for the Lord.
- 2) And we should no longer be willing to die for a self-identified noble cause; if we are going to die for a cause, it should be for the Lord.
- 3) In other words, we now belong to the Lord whether in life or death.

c) “So then each one of us **will give account of himself** to God. Therefore let’s not judge one another any more, but judge this rather, that **no man put a stumbling block in his brother’s way, or an occasion for falling.**” Romans 14:12-13
WEBUS

- 1) It is to God alone that each one of us will give account of himself, not to a judgmental brother.
- 2) Therefore, let’s not form negative opinions about one another any longer, but rather use this as a

guideline before you cast judgement; don't do anything that would place a stumbling block in a brother's way—not a single thing that might cause a brother to fall into sin.

d) “Don't overthrow God's work for food's sake. All things indeed are clean, however **it is evil for that man who creates a stumbling block** by eating. **It is good to not eat meat, drink wine, nor do anything by which your brother stumbles, is offended, or is made weak.**” Romans 14:20-21 WEBUS

- 1) Don't ruin the work God is doing in someone over food.
- 2) Let's be clear: “*All things indeed are clean...*” means that whatever God created as food to eat is certainly clean.
- 3) However, it is still evil to eat clean meat, if it causes a brother who doesn't know any better to stumble.
- 4) In that case, it is good to not eat meat, drink wine, nor do anything by which your brother might stumble, become offended, or be weakened in his faith, rather than strengthened.

- e) “Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of the weak, and **not to please ourselves. Let each one of us please his neighbor** for that which is good, to be building him up.”

Romans 15:1-2 WEBUS

- 1) We who are mature in the faith, those of us I’ve identified as strong and knowledgeable, ought to be compassionate and understanding with those who have deficiencies because they lack certain knowledge.
- 2) Those newer to the faith have their weaknesses simply because they are immature.
- 3) Our role is not to prefer ourselves and chase after our own needs (even when our superior knowledge has granted us liberties), but instead to prefer others and focus on what pleases our neighbors.
- 4) Participate in only that which is useful to their edification, what will build them up into stronger Christians.
- 5) See the complete teaching on Romans 14:
[Identity Politics](#)

4. What it looks like to prefer others oftentimes is the opposite of what you think.

(a) It's easy to love the lovable...

1. **"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?** For even sinners love those who love them."

Luke 6:32 WEBUS

(b) To demonstrate God's love, you must love the unlovable! Give others what they don't deserve!

1. **"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.' But I tell you, don't resist him who is evil; but whoever strikes you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also. If anyone sues you to take away your coat, let him have your cloak also. Whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.** Give to him who asks you, and don't turn away him who desires to borrow from you."

Matthew 5:38-42 WEBUS

a) Do not take on the approach of a pagan; anyone can exact vengeance upon someone who has hurt them. But your responsibility is to love others like Y'shua loves you; love others who don't "deserve" to be loved!

- 1) *"A new commandment I give to you, that you **love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also love one another.**" John 13:34 WEBUS*
- b) In reality, this type of love is not new. What is new, however, is your capability to demonstrate this type of love because you now have the love of God in you!
 - 1) *"Brothers, **I write no new commandment** to you, but **an old commandment** which you had from the beginning. **The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning.** Again, **I write a new commandment to you, which is true in him and in you,** because the darkness is passing away and the true light already shines. He who says he is in the light and hates his brother is in the darkness even until now. **He who loves his brother remains in the light,** and there is no occasion for stumbling in him." 1 John 2:7-10 WEBUS*
- (c) Here is what God's love looks like in practice!
 1. *""You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' **But I tell you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do***

good to those who hate you, and pray for those who mistreat you and persecute you, that you may be children of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust. **For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Don't even the tax collectors do the same? If you only greet your friends,** what more do you do than others? Don't even the tax collectors do the same? **Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."** Matthew 5:43-48 WEBUS

- a) Love your enemies.
- b) Bless those who curse you.
- c) Do good to those who hate you.
- d) Pray for those who mistreat and persecute you.
- e) **Then you will be "perfect" like Y'shua:** *"...we know that when he is revealed, we will be like him..."* 1 John 3:2

5. If you see a need, don't just pray about it; do something about it.

(a) Let's not love in word only, but in deed!

1. "But **whoever has the world's goods and sees his brother in need,** then closes his heart of compassion

against him, how does God's love remain in him? My little children, **let's not love in word only, or with the tongue only, but in deed and truth.**" 1 John 3:17-18

WEBUS

a) Help those in need... not with lip service, but with action!

1) **"In all things I gave you an example, that so laboring you ought to help the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"** Acts 20:35 WEBUS

(b) If you claim to be a person of faith, back it up by doing something about it!

1) **"What good is it, my brothers, if a man says he has faith, but has no works? Can faith save him? And if a brother or sister is naked and in lack of daily food, and one of you tells them, "Go in peace. Be warmed and filled;" yet you didn't give them the things the body needs, what good is it? Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead in itself. Yes, a man will say, "You have faith, and I have works." **Show me your faith without****

works, and I will show you my faith by my works.” James 2:14-18 WEBUS

(6) Focus on serving others, not on being served by them.

(a) If you wish to achieve true greatness...

1. “But Jesus summoned them, and said, “You know that the rulers of the nations Lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. **It shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. Whoever desires to be first among you shall be your bondservant,**” Matthew 20:25-27 WEBUS

a) The greats are always the most humble!

1) “***But he who is greatest among you will be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.***” Matthew 23:11-12 WEBUS

2) “***And being found in human form, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, yes, the death of the cross.***” Philippians 2:8 WEBUS

b) Y’shua was the purest example of a servant leader!

1) “***Whoever of you wants to become first among you shall be bondservant of all. For the Son of***

*Man also came **not to be served but to serve,**
and to give his life as a ransom for many.”” Mark
10:44-45 WEBUS*

c) God is watching your service!

- 1) “For **God is not unrighteous, so as to forget
your work and the labor of love which you
showed toward his name, in that you served the
saints, and still do serve them.” Hebrews 6:10
WEBUS**

d) Your labor of love for others is how you love God!

- 1) “for I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I
was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a
stranger and you took me in. I was naked and
you clothed me. I was sick and you visited me. I
was in prison and you came to me.’ “Then the
righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when
did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty
and give you a drink? When did we see you as a
stranger and take you in, or naked and clothe
you? When did we see you sick or in prison and
come to you?’ “The King will answer them,
‘Most certainly I tell you, because you did it to

one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.” Matthew 25:35-40 WEBUS

e) Every gift, talent, and resource that God has given to you to steward was given to serve others.

1) “***Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, employ it in serving one another, as good managers of the grace of God in its various forms.***” 1 Peter 4:9-10 WEBUS

f) Don’t ever forget...

1) “***But don’t forget to be doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.***”

Hebrews 13:16 WEBUS

Prayer: I surrender my ego (my self-centered, self-focussed, self-important, narcissistic life) and I practice preferring others (I place the interests of others above my own)!

ASSIGNMENT #2

1. Pray about and meditate on these Scriptures:

- A. *“For **the word of God** is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and **is able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart. There is no creature that is hidden from his sight, but **all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of him to whom we must give an account.**”** Hebrews 4:12-13 WEBUS*
- B. *“But there is **nothing covered up that will not be revealed,** nor hidden that will not be known.”* Luke 12:2 WEBUS
- C. *“For **God will bring every work into judgment, with every hidden thing, whether it is good, or whether it is evil.**”* Ecclesiastes 12:14 WEBUS
- D. *“For **no one can lay any other foundation than that which has been laid, which is Jesus Christ.** But if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw, **each man’s work will be revealed. For the Day will declare it, because it is **revealed in fire;**** and the fire itself will test what sort of work each man’s work is.”* 1 Corinthians 3:11-13 WEBUS

- E. *“For the time has come for **judgment** to begin with the household of God. If it **begins first with us**, what will happen to those who don’t obey the Good News of God?”* 1 Peter 4:17 WEBUS

2. Surrender Ego

- A. Search your heart humbly and honestly and list all areas where you are self-centered, self-focussed, self-important, or narcissistic.

- 1) *“But **far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ**, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”* Galatians 6:14

WEBUS

3. Practice Preferring Others

- A. How do you plan on becoming more focussed on others? In what areas might you become a more Christ-like servant? Who will hold you accountable?

- 1) *“And **whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord** and not for men,”* Colossians 3:23 WEBUS