

## **“Serving God Well” - Zanga Schutte, November 3, 2024**

**1 Peter 3:8-9 NIV** 8 Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. 9 Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

**Notes: Five key elements that should Characterize any group of believers:**

### **1. One Mind— pursuing the same goals**

**Philippians 2:1-5 NIV** 1 Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. 5 In our relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.

Notes: Many of us Christians today, live only to make a good impression on others or to please ourselves. But selfishness brings discord. Paul therefore stressed spiritual unity, asking the Philippians to love one another and to be one in spirit and purpose. When we work together, caring for the problems of others as if their problems were ours, we demonstrate Christ’s example of putting others first, and we experience unity. Don’t be so concerned about making a good impression or meeting your own needs that you strain relationships in God’s family.

### **2. Sympathy – being responsive to others’ needs**

**Romans 12:15-16 NIV** 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Notes: Jesus demonstrated and taught that we should treat all people with respect – those of a different race, those with disabilities, those who are rich or poor, young or old, male or female. We must never consider others as being beneath us in any way. We need to live in harmony with one another.

### **3. Love – seeing and treating one another as brothers and sisters**

**John 13:34-35 NIV** 34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Notes: Love is more than simply warm feelings; love reveals itself in action. How can we love others as Jesus loves us? By helping even when we are too busy; by giving sacrificially; by devoting energy to others’ welfare rather than our own; by absorbing hurts from others without complaining, fighting back, or seeking revenge. But this kind of loving is hard to do. That is why people notice when we do it. When we do, we can explain that our actions are empowered by a supernatural source. Christ In Us!

### **4. Tenderness – being affectionately sensitive and caring**

**Ephesians 4:32 NIV** Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Notes: God forgives us, not because we forgive others, but solely because of his great mercy. Those who are unwilling to forgive have not become one with Christ, who was willing to forgive even those who crucified him. As we come to understand his mercy, however, we will want to be more like him. Because Jesus forgave us, our forgiving attitude toward others should be the same as Christ...

**5. Humility – being willing to encourage one another and rejoice in one another’s successes**

**Colossians 3:12-14 NIV** 12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Notes: Strategy to help us live for God day by day: (Colossians 3:12-17) 1) Imitate Christ’s compassionate, forgiving attitude (3:12-13); 2) let love guide your life (3:14); 3) let the peace of Christ rule in your heart (3:15); 4) always be thankful (3:15); 5) keep God’s Word in you at all times (3:16); and 6) live as Jesus Christ’s representative (3:17).

In Closing: **1 Peter 4:11 NIV** If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

**Remember - “Serving God Well”** is a choice that we make daily. Sometimes throughout the days we will fail Him, but don’t be discouraged, for Hebrews 13:5b says, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

**Amen & Amen**