

A Caring People

Introduction

1. **Four times in my life, I have been at the bedside of a faithful Christian along with their families or other brethren just before or right after they drew their last breath in this life.**
 - A. **I look at these occasions and realize that I was blessed because of it.**
 - a. **Though sad because of the loss of physical life, yet there was occasion for all to rejoice.**

Ps 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD Is the death of His saints.

Rev 14:13 Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' " "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

2. **It was at these times where I was truly reminded of my own mortality. I was able to reflect on my own life and think about what was really important.**
3. **A Christian man of 99 years was in a nursing home for only the last 6 months of his life. During that time many of the family members and brethren were there to visit with him. We even celebrated his 99th birthday in the nursing home.**
 - A. **As a result of the constant visits the nursing home staff could see how special he was and how much we loved him.**
3. **In short, others could see how much we cared for one another.**
4. **Therefore, we can't forget that our influence grows and our light shines brighter when we manifest the care that is characteristic of God's people.**

Matthew 5:16

Christians Care

1. Because - We want to be like God

Psalms 23

A. In accordance with Jesus' teaching in Matthew 25, we'll have our lamps ready, our talents will be developed in service to God, we'll strive to visit the sick and feed the hungry.

B. We cast our care upon Him because He cares for us (1 Pet 5:7).

2. Because - We want to be like Christ

A. He was popular among the common folks of His day .

1) He wept over Lazarus (John 11:35).

Cared for all men:

Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

3. Because - We want to be like first-century Christians

Phil 3:17 Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.

Acts 4:36-37 And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Rom 16:1-2 I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea, that you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also.

Acts 2:42-47

4. Caring Christians is a Mark of Maturity

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Caring Christians

- 1. Are helpful**
Acts 4:32-37; in good times and in bad times
 - A. Vision to see the need.**
 - B. Initiative to take action.**
 - C. Commitment to stay with the situation.**
 - D. Courage to take the first step.**
- 2. Help Others to Feel Needed and Useful**
1 Corinthians 12:23-26
- 3. Are Benevolent**
Matthew 25:31-46

James 1:27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

4. Are Friendly

Rom 16:16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ greet you.

1 Cor 16:20 All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

5. Are Concerned About the Souls of Others (lost, saved, weak, erring)

David had a moment when he thought no one cared for his soul.

Ps 142:4 Look on my right hand and see, For there is no one who acknowledges me; Refuge has failed me; No one cares for my soul.

Continuing in the teaching of Christ saves souls

1 Tim 4:16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

Conclusion

1. Those whom we love and admire the most are caring people.
2. Let us be sure that, in our motivations and actions, that we are caring people.
 - A. This is shown by way of:
 - 1) Visiting, evangelizing, edifying, and benevolence.

Invitation

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Richard Thetford, November 2001, (Based on an outline by Joe Price)

A construction crew was building a new road through a rural area, knocking down trees as it progressed. A superintendent noticed that one tree had a nest of birds who couldn't fly yet and so he marked the tree so that it would not be cut down. Several weeks later the superintendent came back to the tree. He got into a bucket truck and was lifted up so that he could see into the nest. The little birds were gone. They had gotten old enough to fly. The superintendent ordered the tree cut down. As the tree crashed to the ground, the nest fell clear and some of the material that the birds had gathered to make the nest was scattered everywhere. Part of it was a scrap torn from a Sunday Bible class pamphlet. On the scrap of paper were these words: He careth for you.

Bits and Pieces, November, 1989, p.23