

## The Balance of Christian Love

Philippians 2:4

**Big Idea:** The second aspect of the image of Christ in us is the practice of Christian love. The love of Christ in us is a balance between exercising responsibility and charity.

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*Maintaining theological balance as a Christian is critically important.*

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Two positive exercises of the Spirit of Christ in us:

1. Exercise \_\_\_\_\_

4 Let each of you look **not only** to his own interests, **but also** to the interests of others.

What the Spirit is impressing on us here is that we **should not** be overly concerned with our own interest, so much so that **all we think about** is ourselves and our future and forget about the interests of others.

**Read Luke 12:13-21**

And although all the bible warns us about being *overly* concerned with ourselves, **it doesn't advocate that we should not look after our own affairs at all.**

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*If God has richly blessed you, then you ought to richly bless others.*

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2. Exercise \_\_\_\_\_

4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also **to the interests of others.**

**Love is** an uncompromising and sacrificial commitment to the well-being of others that compels us to act on their behalf for their flourishing.

**Read Acts 2:42-47**

What we see in this passage is **genuine Christian love** and **discipleship** as we are **responsible** with what the Lord has given to us so that we might then in turn **commit** ourselves and our resources to others.

Questions to Consider

How do we exercise responsibility with the resources that God has given us?

Read Luke 12:13-21. What is the problem in the parable of the rich young fool? Where is his focus?

What are some ways you lose balance with the things God has blessed you with?

Although we shouldn't obsess over material things, how can we be responsible with the things God has given us? What is God's purpose for our over abundance?

Read Acts 2:42-47. How did the early church exercise both responsibility and charity?

Do you know of someone you might be able to share the good things that God has given to you with? (Both materially and spiritually)

How did Christ demonstrate responsibility and charity in his incarnation?

What would happen if Christ emptied himself of all things in the incarnation?

How did Christ use his eternal resources for our good?

What does this balance of responsibility and charity look like in your life?