

Love Your Friend to Faith

Becoming
A
Caring
Christian

**Participant
Booklet**

*Southern Nazarene University
Church Growth Research Center
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PURPOSE:

- To encourage Christians to devote themselves to doing good.

OBJECTIVES:

- To develop personal virtues in preparation for doing good.
- To understand the kindness of God.
- To determine what caring deeds are excellent and profitable for everyone.

- A. A _____ to do good emerges from personal virtues.
1. We must be responsive to _____.
 - a. When Paul obediently stood before God's High Priest Ananias (Acts 23), Felix and Festus (Acts 24), and King Agrippa (Acts 26), the apostle had a _____ audience for the gospel!
 - b. The obedience to authority that Christ demands of us _____ contradicts our allegiance to God.
 - c. Jesus' submission to the ultimate authority of His Father _____ his submission to those who crucified him.
 - d. We can be ready to do good by submitting to human authority only after we have submitted to the authority of _____ in our lives.
 2. We should engage in _____ conversation.
 - a. Shun _____. Slandorous talk is based on false charges aimed at _____ someone's reputation. Proverbs 10:18b says, "Whoever spreads slander is a fool."
 - b. Boycott _____.
 - c. Avoid _____.
 3. We must foster peaceful and considerate _____.
 - a. Peaceful Christians find _____ instead of laying blame.
 - b. Considerate Christians think of _____ instead of themselves.
 - c. Considerate Christians _____ their rights instead of retaining their rights.
 4. We must model a _____ attitude.
 - a. Showing true humility means treating people _____.
 - b. Showing true humility means asking for _____.
 - c. Showing true humility means _____ what Christ saved us from.
 - d. Showing true humility is to become _____.
 5. We should be _____.
 - a. Obedience directs our _____, but submission impacts our attitudes.
 - b. Christian submission goes beyond obedience to be _____ and yielded.

- B. But God's _____ saved us from sin to righteousness.
1. Here is how we _____ God's kindness:
 - a. Only God's divine _____, not our own intent, sent Jesus Christ to us.
 - b. Only God's _____, not our conscience, can lead us to repentance.
 - c. Only God's _____, not our works, can save us.
 - d. Only through _____ and renewal, not our good intentions, are we presented acceptable to Him.
 - e. Only through _____ as heirs, not our enslaved condition, can we inherit eternal life.
 - f. Only through a comprehension of God's _____ in our lives, not through our own efforts, can we practice good works.
- C. Because of God's character we _____ ourselves to doing good.
1. Why does Paul _____ his admonition to do whatever is good?
 - a. The sharp contrast between our sinful past and our present salvation _____ us to do whatever is good.
 - b. People will remember what they have _____ of God's love long after they have forgotten what they have heard about God's love.
 - c. The experience of God's love _____ the understanding of God's love.
 2. Be careful to do what is _____.
 - a. We _____ the quality of our endeavors by the yardsticks of submissive obedience, consideration, and true humility.
 - b. The disciples were _____ to continue their ministry of prayer and preaching, but not to the exclusion of helping the poor with their material needs.
 3. Doing what is good is excellent and profitable for _____.
 - a. Doing what is good should be _____.
 - b. Doing what is good should have _____.
 - c. Doing what is good should be _____ chosen.

Small Group Exercise

Devoting ourselves to doing whatever is good begins with a plan. Work independently for five minutes:

- Use the left column for listing 4-5 names of people who might respond to specific and significant acts of kindness. Especially try to focus on naming unsaved friends, neighbors, co-workers, relatives, etc.
- Look at the individual name and decide what specific and significant act of kindness each person would most appreciate. Match the listed names to the suggestions in the right column, or list other possibilities in the blanks provided.
- After you have completed the exercise, break into church teams of 3-4 people. Pray together about the specific plans you have made to do whatever is good.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

- A. Yard work/Leaf Raking
- B. General Handyman Work
- C. Housecleaning
- D. Notes of Encouragement
- E. Car Wash and Wax
- F. Child Care
- G. Elderly Care
- H. Gift Certificate to Favorite Store/Restaurant
- I. Taxi Service
- J. "Meals on Wheels"
- K. Walking/Jogging Partner
- L. Trip to Zoo/Museum
- M. Trip to Ball Game
- N. Shopping Excursion
- O. Computer Skills Tutoring
- P. _____
- Q. _____
- R. _____
- S. _____

