> No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.
> — *1 Corinthians 10:24*

Book: New Testament / 1 Corinthians
Topics: neighbor, love, selfishness

Interpretation:
The Bible verse *1 Corinthians 10:24* teaches us an important life lesson that we often overlook. Modern life has caused us to focus on our own needs, goals, and objectives.

We are so concerned with achieving our own goals that we often focus only on ourselves, without considering others. But God calls us to seek the good of others and not just worry about ourselves. Why is this so important?

The meaning of the bible text

The context of this verse in *1 Corinthians 10* shows us how *the apostle Paul* is advising the church in Corinth to stay on track amid the difficulties they are facing. He reminds the Corinthians that the freedom to do whatever they want should not be used as an excuse to indulge their own desires. Instead, they should be concerned about the well-being of others, both inside and outside the church.

Verse 24 sums up the entire letter by telling us that in everything we do, we should seek the good of others. Paul calls Christians to change their selfish tendencies and put the interests and needs of others above their own.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another.
> — *1 John 3:11*

Book: New Testament / 1 John
Topics: neighbor, law, love

Interpretation:
1 John 3:11 is a simple yet powerful passage from the Bible. In one sentence, the *apostle John* expresses the central message of Christianity: to **love one another**. This teaching is not new, as it has been passed down since the beginning of the Christian faith. Love is the foundation of our religion, and we should consider how we can apply it to our daily lives.

Love is a fundamental virtue in the Bible. The Old Testament tells us to love our neighbors as ourselves (*Leviticus 19:18*). In the New Testament, Jesus teaches us to love our enemies and to pray for those who persecute us (*Matthew 5:44*). The love described in the Bible is not just a feeling, but an action. We are to show love through our actions and do good to those who are close to us.

We love one another not only because it is a biblical command, but also because it is an example for others. When we show love and compassion to others, we create a healthy and positive environment in our community. This feeling of love and unity extends beyond our church and touches everyone around us.

Love also affects us. When we strive to love others, we become more like Christ. Jesus demonstrated unconditional love for all people, even those who betrayed and persecuted Him. *By loving others, we follow in His footsteps and become a reflection of His incredible love*.

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> This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.
> *— 1 John 3:16*

Book: New Testament / 1 John
Topics: neighbor, Jesus, love

Interpretation:
Love is one of the most common themes in the Bible. It is mentioned many times, and *1 John 3:16* is a good example. This verse shows us God’s love for us, which was demonstrated by the fact that He gave *His Son* to die for our sins. This love is a sacrificial love, meaning that God gave everything for

us without asking for anything in return.

God’s love for us

When we read *1 John 3:16*, we realize that God’s love for us is something amazing. Not only does He love us, but He gave His life for us. It is important to remember that we do not deserve this love, since we have all sinned, but God chose to love us anyway. He offered us the gift of salvation through *His Son Jesus Christ*, and all we have to do to receive this gift is accept it.

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> If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?
> *— 1 John 3:17*

Book: New Testament / 1 John
Topics: neighbor, compassion, love, materialism, money

Interpretation:
In *1 John 3:17* we see a call to compassion and help for those in need. *The Apostle John* tells us that if we have material possessions and we see a brother or sister in need, but we close our hearts to them, we cannot say that God’s love dwells in us. This message is a call to love and compassion for others, especially those who are less fortunate than us.

Why is it important to help those in need?

The Bible teaches us that our material possessions and the wealth we possess are not for our own benefit alone, but are to be shared with others.

Jesus tells us in *Luke 12:33, “Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.”* This verse shows us the importance of helping those in need.

Moreover, helping those in need is not only important because of the religious mandate, but also has a positive impact on our lives and our communities. By helping the less fortunate, we build a more just and equal society. We also develop our own empathy and compassion, as well as leadership and

teamwork skills.

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> No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.
> *— 1 John 4:12*

Book: New Testament / 1 John
Topics: neighbor, God, love

Interpretation:
1 John 4:12 begins by stating that no one has ever seen God. This is a strong statement because people often seek to see physical signs of God's presence.

The Bible teaches us that God is a spiritual being who cannot be seen or touched physically. However, although we cannot see God, we can sense His love and presence through our actions.

When we love one another, God abides in us

The idea here is that when we love others, we share God's love with them and allow God to work through us. By loving others, we demonstrate God's love and allow His love to flow through us.

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> Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.
> *— 1 John 4:7*

Book: New Testament / 1 John
Topics: neighbor, friendship, love, rebirth

Interpretation:
In 1 John, *the apostle* reminds us of the importance of love in our lives. *1 John 4:7* clearly states that we should love one another, but why is this so important? Love is one of the hallmarks of Christians and a sign of God's love for us.

Love from God

When we speak of love as a hallmark of Christians, we mean a love that goes beyond mere affection or gratitude. The love that God expects from us is a love that is given unconditionally, that expects nothing in return, and that is able to forgive even the gravest offenses. This kind of love can only come from God, for it is He who shows us how to love in this way.

Love gives us knowledge of God

1 John 4:7 also says that he who loves is born of God and knows God. That is, love brings us closer to God and allows us to know Him better. If we want to truly know God, we must love, for only then can we understand His love and mercy.

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> Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.
> *— 1 Peter 3:8*

Book: New Testament / 1 Peter
Topics: neighbor, community, compassion, humility

Interpretation:
1 Peter 3:8 is a call for unity in the Christian community. The apostle *Peter* witnessed the persecution that the early church suffered and knew that unity was essential to its survival and growth. He also knew that unity was an important part of the identity of followers *of Jesus Christ*. In this verse, Peter offers a list of qualities that believers must have in order to live in unity.

The importance of unity

Unity is essential to the church because unity is the evidence *of Christ's love* for the world. *Jesus* said, *"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35)*. If Christians cannot love one another and live in unity, how can they hope to demonstrate the love of Christ to a lost world? Furthermore, unity is also essential to the spiritual growth of the individual. The Christian community is called to help each member grow spiritually and mature. Unity and brotherly love are fundamental to this process. Only when Christians live in harmony can they strengthen one another and grow together in faith.

List of qualities

In this verse, Peter offers a list of qualities necessary for living in unity. They are: like-mindedness, compassion, love for one another, kindness, and gentleness.

Like-mindedness - This refers to the need to be of one mind, to think consistently, and to be united in the truth of the gospel. This means that Christians must be willing to put aside personal differences and focus on what unites them: *their love for Christ and their commitment to His word*.

Compassion - This refers to the ability to feel empathy and understanding for others. It is necessary to feel the pain and joy of others as if they were our own. This may be difficult for some, but it is essential for living in harmony.

Brotherly love - This love for other believers is crucial to unity. This love goes beyond superficial affection and extends to caring for and being responsible for one another.

Mercy - This refers to the need to forgive others when they make mistakes or lack unity. Mercy shown in the church helps to build healthier relationships and restore harmony in society.

Kindness - This means a positive attitude and a willingness to help others at any time and under any circumstances. Kindness helps others feel welcome and safe in society.

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> Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.
> *— 1 Peter 4:8*

Book: New Testament / 1 Peter

Topics: neighbor, love, sin

Interpretation:
The Bible is a book full of messages of love, compassion, and hope. In it, we find many verses that tell us about the importance of loving others. One such verse is found in *1 Peter 4:8*, where we are encouraged to have a passionate love for one another.

The meaning of the verse

The verse in *1 Peter 4:8* reminds us of the importance of love in our relationships. In this passage, the word *“love”* means a continuous, passionate, and devoted love for others. The Apostle *Peter* encourages us to maintain a love among ourselves that is so deep that it can cover a multitude of sins.

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> May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.
> *— 1 Thessalonians 3:12*

Book: New Testament / 1 Thessalonians
Topics: neighbor, love, relationships

Interpretation:
Verse *1 Thessalonians 3:12* tells us that God wants us to grow and abound in love for one another and for everyone. Love is one of the most important values ??of Christianity, and it must be practiced so that it becomes stronger and becomes a way of life.

Love is a value that we must cultivate every day. One way to do this is through prayer and reading the Bible, where we can find teachings and examples that inspire us to love more and better. Moreover, it is important to practice such qualities as patience, tolerance, and understanding, which will help us develop love in our relationships with others.

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> Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.
> — *1 Thessalonians 5:11*

Book: New Testament / 1 Thessalonians
Topics: neighbor, encouragement, learning

Interpretation:
1 Thessalonians 5:11 is a call for the community to encourage and build one another up. It is a reminder that we are not to live by our own faith alone, but to support and encourage one another.

The Christian life can be difficult at times. We may feel alone in our struggles and temptations. But when we have brothers and sisters *in Christ* who support and encourage us, we can find comfort and encouragement. In addition, encouraging and building one another up helps us grow in our faith and become stronger.

There are many ways we can encourage and build one another up. We can pray for one another, share our struggles and concerns, study the Bible together, and serve together in our church and community. We can also offer words of encouragement and practical help when needed.

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> Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need.
> — *1 Timothy 5:3*

Book: New Testament / 1 Timothy
Topics: neighbor, community, widows

Interpretation:
First *Timothy 5:3* calls us to honor true widows. But what does this expression mean? First of all, we must understand that the culture of that time was very different from our own. Women were forbidden from holding certain positions and inheriting property. Therefore, widows were one of the most vulnerable in society.

When we are asked to *“honor”* these women, we mean the importance of caring for them, providing for their material and spiritual needs, and treating them with respect and love. In the context of the church, believers must take on this responsibility so that widows do not fall into poverty and despair.

Why is it important to honor widows?

Honoring widows is a sign of love and justice. It is easy to overlook those who do not have power and influence in society, but God calls us to be responsible for those who need our help. In addition, the Bible repeatedly mentions that God is the protector of widows and that He Himself cares for them. *Psalm 68:5* says, *“A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.”* So when we honor widows, we are acting in harmony with the heart of God.

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> For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.
>
> *— 2 Peter 1:5-7*

Book: New Testament / 2 Peter
Topics: neighbor, faith, goodness, love, relationships, self-control

Interpretation:
Faith is one of the fundamental pillars of our Christian life, but often we focus so much on it that we forget that there are other things we must also develop in order to have a full life in God.

Virtue

The concept of virtue has been around since ancient times and refers to the moral qualities of a person that make them worthy of respect and admiration. In this sense, we can understand that when we are called to add virtue to our faith, we are being called to be people who not only believe in God, but also demonstrate His values ??and principles in their daily lives.

Prudence

Once we understand the importance of adding virtue to our faith, these verses encourage us to continue growing and to add knowledge. In this sense, we can understand that knowledge means not only knowing more about God and His word, but also having practical and applied knowledge about how to live in this world in accordance with God’s values ??and principles.

Self-Control

However, knowledge alone is not enough. We also need self-control. This means having self-control and the ability to make decisions based on what we believe is right, rather than just doing what we feel like doing at the time. Self-control is a virtue that can be applied to all areas of our lives, from how we manage our finances to how we treat others.

Patience

But how do we develop self-control? One way is by practicing patience. Patience can be elusive, especially in our modern society where instant gratification is constantly sought. Patience allows us to wait and persevere even in difficult times. It allows us to be committed to our goals despite obstacles and setbacks.

Godliness

Godliness is respect and devotion to God. It is an extremely important quality in our lives because it helps us maintain the right perspective on life and guides us in our decisions. Godliness also helps us understand that we are not alone in this world, but have a direct connection with God, who loves us and always guides us.

Brotherly Love

Brotherly affection, which means love and loyalty to our brothers in faith. This virtue calls us to love other Christians deeply and sincerely, as if they were members of our own family. Brotherly affection calls us to loyalty and love for our community of faith. We are to show mutual affection and concern, to encourage one another and to support one another in difficult times. Brotherly love encourages us to always be supportive, to help those who need our help, and to build a strong and united community in the love *of Christ*.

Love

Love, which is the culmination and goal of all the other virtues. Love is the greatest commandment that *Jesus* left us and the clearest proof that we are His disciples. Love is the highest of Christian values, because God himself is love. The experience of God's love enables us to love others deeply and selflessly and helps us to imitate the perfect compassion and mercy of *our Lord Jesus Christ*.

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> So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.
>
> *— Acts 12:5*

Book: New Testament / Acts
Topics: neighbor, Church, community, dependence, Prayer

Interpretation:
Acts 12:5 is a verse that introduces us to a key moment in the life of the *apostle Peter* within the *book of Acts*. Chapter 12 of the book begins with the account of the death of James at the hands of Herod, who had been captured by Peter and was now seeking revenge against the Christians.

At the height of the persecution, Peter was captured and imprisoned with the intention of being publicly executed after the Passover. But the church, aware of the situation, remained united in prayer and supplication for the apostle's release. It was then that a miracle occurred: *an angel of the Lord* released Peter from his chains and opened the prison doors, allowing him to escape.

The importance of prayer in difficult times

Acts 12:5 is a powerful testimony to the value and effectiveness of prayer in difficult times. The early church was a community whose members supported and cared for one another, and this was reflected in their ability to unite in prayer when one of them was in danger.

Prayer was a fundamental tool for Peter’s deliverance from captivity, showing that when God’s people pray in faith and unity, great things can be accomplished.

This passage not only tells us about the importance of prayer in times of crisis, but it also shows us that our faith must be put into action. Not only did the church pray for Peter’s release, but they believed that God could do something extraordinary to save him.

Prayer is not only a way to ask God to intervene, but it is also a way to demonstrate our faith in His power and willingness to act in our lives.

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from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.
> — *Colossians 3:13*

Book: New Testament / Colossians
Topics: neighbor, Forgiveness, peace, reconciliation

Interpretation:
In *Colossians 3:13, Paul* teaches us a great lesson. The apostle urges us to be patient and to forgive our brothers and sisters in the faith, even if we have grievances against them. Life in society is difficult, as we can all attest to from our own experience.

That is why it is important to remember what *Christ* taught us; He always forgives us, no matter how great our offense. If we follow His example, we will be able to maintain unity in the Christian community and help each other when misunderstandings and mistakes arise.

Patience with others

In this verse, the word “Bear” means “to bear or support.” The meaning is clear: we need to be able to maintain harmony in our relationships, even when things get difficult. We may have different opinions and points of view, but it is important that our faith and love *for Christ* help us overcome these problems. We must be able to support and help each other, and also be there for our brothers and sisters in the faith.

In the Christian community, “being patient” with others can mean many things. It can be listening to them when they need to talk, helping them in their time of need, and praying for them. When we are patient with others, we show unconditional love and strengthen our relationships with them.

Forgive others

It is also important to remember that forgiving others is vital to our spiritual life. When we have a problem with someone, it can be very difficult for us to forgive them and move on. But in *Colossians 3:13*, Paul reminds us that we are to forgive others just as *Christ* forgives us.

For many of us, forgiveness can be difficult. It may take time and effort, but it is important to remember that forgiveness is a fundamental part of our faith. It helps us release anger and bitterness and begin

to repair broken relationships. Forgiveness allows us to draw closer to God and others again. Sometimes it can be helpful to talk to someone in the Christian community about forgiveness to get advice and support in the process.

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> If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.
> — *Ecclesiastes 4:10*

Book: Old Testament / Ecclesiastes
Topics: neighbor, friendship, relationships

Interpretation:
Ecclesiastes is a book of the Bible written by King *Solomon*, reflecting on the meaning of life and the pursuit of happiness. In this book, Solomon speaks of the futility of earthly pleasures and the importance of God's presence in our lives. This verse is found in chapter 4, where Solomon speaks of oppression and injustice in the world.

The value of mutual support

This verse speaks of the importance of mutual support and how we need others to overcome difficulties. In life, we always face difficulties and obstacles, but when there is someone who supports us and offers help, everything becomes easier. When we find ourselves in a difficult situation, it is important to have someone who will listen and support us.

Furthermore, mutual support allows us to grow together. By sharing our experiences and knowledge with others, we can learn from them and improve as individuals. The Bible teaches us to love our neighbors as ourselves, and mutual support is a practical manifestation of this love.

The danger of loneliness

This verse also reminds us of the dangers of loneliness. When we are alone, we can feel helpless and lost. The lack of communication and support can lead to sadness and depression. Moreover, when we are alone, we are more vulnerable to the attacks of the enemy.

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> And I saw that all toil and all achievement spring from one person’s envy of another. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.
>
> — *Ecclesiastes 4:4*

Book: Old Testament / Ecclesiastes
Topics: neighbor, desires, materialism, work

Interpretation:
Ecclesiastes 4:4 invites us to reflect on our feelings toward others and to realize that envy leads only to futility and anguish of spirit. We must learn to value our own abilities and achievements without constantly comparing ourselves to others.

Moreover, this verse calls upon us to show compassion to those around us and to avoid envying their successes and accomplishments. We ought to rejoice in the happiness and achievements of others and support one another in our endeavors and dreams. In doing so, we can build a society that is more just, harmonious, and equitable.

It highlights the realization that human activity and skill are often driven by the desire to attain a higher status than others. *Solomon* observed that the wheel of life turns on envy and a spirit of rivalry. The desire for a better home or finer clothing—all of this seemed so hollow and unworthy of a human being created in *the image and likeness of God*.

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> You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.
>
> — *Exodus 20:17*

Book: Old Testament / Exodus
Topics: neighbor, greed, law, materialism

Interpretation:
The commandment in *Exodus 20:17* is the last of the Ten Commandments given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai. This commandment not only prohibits coveting another's possessions but also teaches us an important lesson about gratitude and life satisfaction.

Envy: what does It mean?

Before delving into the meaning of this commandment, it's important to understand the meaning of the word "envy." The term "envy" denotes a strong desire to possess something belonging to another person. This applies not only to material goods but also to relationships and social status.

The danger of greed

Greed can be dangerous because it can lead us to make reckless decisions and harm others to satisfy our desires. Desire for something else can lead to envy and jealousy, which can lead to malicious behavior and harmful actions. Furthermore, greed never satisfies us. No matter how many things a person has, there will always be something they desire more of. Greed is like an incurable disease, and it can consume our lives and relationships.

Gratitude and contentment

The commandment "thou shalt not covet" teaches us the importance of gratitude and contentment. Instead of focusing on what we don't have, we should focus on what we do have. We must learn to appreciate and be grateful for the blessings God has given us and work to improve our lives, rather than envying others.

Gratitude and contentment also help us maintain proper perspective. Often, when we focus on what we don't have, we lose sight of our advantages and feel dissatisfied and unhappy. But when we are grateful for what we do have, we can clearly see our accomplishments and view the world more positively.

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> For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”
> — *Galatians 5:14*

Book: New Testament / Galatians
Topics: neighbor, law, love

Interpretation:
The Bible teaches us that love is one of the most important values ??in the life of a Christian. In *Galatians 5:14*, the Apostle *Paul* summed up the entire Law of God in one word: *“Love your neighbor as yourself.”* For he who loves another does not kill, does not commit adultery, does not envy, does not steal from another, does not harm him, does not blaspheme or insult him.

When we love our neighbors, we fulfill all the teachings of the Law and demonstrate our love for God.

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> Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.
> — *Galatians 6:10*

Book: New Testament / Galatians
Topics: neighbor, faith, gentleness, goodness

Interpretation:
The Bible contains many teachings on how to live a godly life. *Galatians 6:10* reminds us of the importance of doing good to others, especially to members of our family of faith.

A call to do good to all

In *Galatians 6:10*, the apostle *Paul* reminds us of the importance of doing good to all. This is a key teaching in the Bible because it reminds us that we are all equal before God and that we are to treat others with love and respect. Doing good to all can mean many different things. We can help those in need, be kind to others, provide emotional support to those in need, offer words of encouragement,

etc. Ultimately, by doing good to all, we help ourselves develop love and compassion while reflecting God's goodness to others.

The importance of helping family members of faith

While doing good to all is important, the verse also emphasizes the importance of helping those of faith. This means that we are to support our brothers and sisters in the faith, offer them help and encourage them in their walk *with Christ*. This call to help members of the family of faith is also important because it reminds us that we are part of a community of believers. Often, in the midst of life's difficulties and trials, our brothers and sisters in the faith provide us with support and encouragement. Therefore, we should be willing to do the same for them.

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> Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.
> *— Galatians 6:2*

Book: New Testament / Galatians
Topics: neighbor, law, suffering

Interpretation:
The book of Galatians was written by the Apostle *Paul* to the churches of Galatia to correct some doctrinal deviations that had arisen regarding justification by faith. In this particular verse of *Galatians 6:2*, Paul calls the Christian community to help one another and share their burdens, thereby following the law established *by Christ*.

What does it mean to carry the burdens of others?

The verb *"Carry"* in this verse refers to the act of bearing with another person a burden that is heavy for them through love and service. These burdens can be physical, emotional, familial, or financial, and as Christians, this teaches us to give unconditional support to those under our care.

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> Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.
>
> — *Hebrews 13:1-2*

Book: New Testament / Hebrews
Topics: neighbor, Angels, gentleness, love

Interpretation:
Brotherly love is a concept found throughout the Bible and is especially relevant in *the New Testament* . *Hebrews 13:1-2* encourages us to allow this love to remain in our lives, and it is important that we consider what this entails and how we can apply it in our daily lives.

First of all, it is important to remember that brotherly love is a love that goes beyond family relationships or close friendships. It is a love that extends to all members of the community in which we live, including those we consider different from us. The idea is that through this love we can build relationships of brotherhood and solidarity that will allow us to face life's challenges together.

However, we know that loving our neighbor is not always easy. We often encounter people whose attitudes irritate us or who do not share our beliefs, and in such moments it is important to remember that love does not mean agreeing on everything, but rather finding common ground and building a relationship on that foundation.

Moreover, loving our neighbor does not mean that we should tolerate all behavior. If someone hurts us or behaves disrespectfully, it is important to set clear boundaries and respect ourselves. The main thing is to do this with love and tenderness, understanding that both we and the other person deserve respect and care.

The importance of Hospitality

The idea of ??hospitality is found throughout the Bible, showing how God values ??the hospitality of others in our homes, especially those we do not know or those who are in need of help. An example of this is *Hebrews 13:2*, which encourages us to remember the importance of hospitality, as sometimes we may be welcoming angels without even realizing it.

We find many examples of hospitality in the Bible. *Abraham and Sarah* welcomed the three angels into their home and offered them food and water. In the Book of Ruth, *Boaz* welcomes *Ruth* into his field and provides her with food and shelter. There is also the case of the poor widow who welcomes *Elijah* into her home and offers him food, even though she had very little to eat herself. *Jesus* also

spoke a lot about hospitality and the importance of receiving and giving it.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.
> *— Hebrews 3:12*

Book: New Testament / Hebrews
Topics: neighbor, anger, evil, faith, heart

Interpretation:
The book of Hebrews primarily deals with the believers' faith in *Jesus Christ*, explaining how to live out that faith, and how to live the Christian life in fellowship with God and brotherly love. Chapter 3 deals with the importance of having a strong and steadfast faith in God, despite any adversity that may arise.

A call to trust God

Hebrews 3:12 is a wake-up call for believers and a warning against falling into unbelief. The writer of Hebrews encourages us to focus on God, maintaining our trust in Him and not allowing our faith to weaken. This warns us of the importance of recognizing that our own unbelief can put us at risk of falling away from God.

The importance of maintaining a right heart

The evil, unbelieving heart mentioned in this verse is a warning against apostasy and abandonment. Unbelief can cause us to become separated from God and to break our relationship with Him. This would have devastating consequences for our Christian life and could cause us to lose the benefit of salvation.

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> Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.
>
> — *Isaiah 1:17*

Book: Old Testament / Isaiah
Topics: neighbor, orphans, protection, righteousness, widows

Interpretation:
Isaiah 1:17 is a clear call from the prophet *Isaiah* to the people of Israel to do good. In times of injustice and oppression, the prophet exhorts the people to seek justice, help the oppressed, and protect orphans and widows.

Learning to do good

The first part of the verse calls us to learn to do good. This seems as simple as simply doing good deeds, but in reality, it implies something deeper: it is a learning process in which we must be willing to abandon negative habits that hinder us from doing good. It is an invitation to rethink our behavior and find ways to improve it, to contribute to the creation of a more just and caring society.

Seeking truth

The second part of the verse calls us to seek justice. In a world where the law of might often prevails, seeking justice means striving for fairness, equality, and respect for the rights of all people. This implies a willingness to defend the rights of those who cannot do so themselves and to fight for a society that guarantees a decent life for all.

Help the victims

The third part of the verse calls us to help the victims. A victim can be anyone who has suffered injustice, rights violations, misrepresentation, or slander. Helping these people means being attentive to their suffering and being willing to lend a helping hand so they can overcome their situation.

Do justice to the orphan

The fourth part of the verse calls us to do justice to orphans. In many cultures, orphans are the most vulnerable of all the vulnerable. Doing justice to orphans means treating them with dignity, protecting them, and providing them with a better future. We have the power to make society more just and respectful of children's rights.

Protect the widow

The last part of the verse calls us to protect the widow. In many cultures, widows are the most vulnerable women, deprived of protection, financial support, and a voice in society. Protecting a widow means respecting her dignity, protecting her, supporting her in her struggle for survival, and striving for a society in which all people have equal rights and opportunities.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?
> — *Isaiah 58:6*

Book: Old Testament / Isaiah
Topics: neighbor, fasting, slavery

Interpretation:
Fasting is mentioned in the Bible as a form of worship and seeking God. However, in many cases, fasting has been misunderstood and reduced to simply abstaining from food, without considering its true purpose. In *Isaiah 58:6*, we are reminded that fasting is not just a religious practice, but has a deeper and more meaningful purpose.

Fasting that pleases God

Isaiah 58:6 speaks of fasting that is God's choice. God is not so much concerned with abstaining from food, but with the impact fasting can have on our lives and the lives of others. God wants us to fast to free ourselves from the bonds that separate us from Him and to help those who are oppressed by the heavy yoke of unrighteousness.

Untie the bonds of evil

God wants us to use fasting as a tool to free ourselves from the sin and wickedness that darken our spiritual lives. Fasting gives us the opportunity to deeply examine our lives, evaluate our actions, thoughts, and motives, and commit to changing those things that are displeasing to God. During fasting, we devote our full attention to prayer and meditation, which allows us to know God more deeply and have a personal relationship with Him.

Free ourselves from the burden of oppression

In addition to loosening the bonds of evil, fasting can also help us to free those who are oppressed by injustice and oppression. Fasting helps us gain a clearer perspective and the courage to defend the oppressed and fight for their freedom. It can also be an opportunity to donate some of our money or time to help those in need.

Break every yoke

Finally, *Isaiah 58:6* reminds us that fasting can also help us break every yoke that separates us from God and prevents us from achieving our purpose in life. Fasting helps us overcome the temptations of sin, addictions and other bad habits that prevent us from living life to the fullest.

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> Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.
>
> *— James 1:27*

Book: New Testament / James
Topics: neighbor, Blameless, orphans, sin, widows, world

Interpretation:
In the context of *James 1:27*, the idea of ??religion is not only what we do in church, but also in all the actions we take in our daily lives. Visiting orphans and widows is a sign of solidarity and love for the most vulnerable members of society.

Being unspotted from the world means staying away from worldly practices and adhering to Christian principles. We should strive to stay away from sin and temptation, as they can lead us away from God. We should also always be mindful of our actions so that we can be role models for those around us.

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> There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?
> — *James 4:12*

Book: New Testament / James
Topics: neighbor, judgment, law, righteousness, Salvation

Interpretation:
The Bible verse *James 4:12* teaches us a valuable lesson about not judging others. It is directed at those who judge others and feel superior to others, although they should remember that only God has the right to judge. Judging others is a common tendency in today's society. However, we must remember that this is unfair and not in line with what *Christ* taught us.

Instead of judging, we should be compassionate and seek to understand others. We should conduct ourselves in such a way as to offer love and acceptance to everyone, no matter what. *James 4:12* also reminds us that no one is perfect and that we all fail in certain areas of life. Therefore, we must be patient with ourselves and others and seek God's guidance at all times.

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> Anyone who withholds kindness from a friend forsakes the fear of the Almighty.
> — *Job 6:14*

Book: Old Testament / Job
Topics: neighbor, awe, friendship

Interpretation:
Job 6:14 speaks of the importance of comfort in times of suffering. The book of Job tells the story of one of the most famous characters in the Old Testament, who endured a series of trials that tested his faith and patience in God.

In this passage, *Job* reflects on the importance of having a companion to share his suffering. This emphasizes the need for someone to be present in moments of pain and loneliness to offer comfort

and support.

Furthermore, this verse speaks of those who have lost the fear *of the Almighty*. This can be interpreted as those who have lost faith in God or have strayed from His path.

How can we apply this to our lives?

Comfort is necessary during times of pain and suffering, and this lesson applies to all people, regardless of their religion or beliefs. In difficult times, we all need support and companionship.

In this sense, we can apply this teaching to our relationships with others. We should be ready to offer comfort and support to our friends, family, and acquaintances if they are going through difficult times. Furthermore, we can seek the comfort we need from others by sharing our struggles and concerns with those we trust.

On the other hand, this verse also teaches us the importance of not losing faith in God. While this teaching is especially relevant for believers, we can interpret it more broadly. In times of suffering, it's easy to doubt the meaning of our existence or God's role in our lives. However, maintaining faith in a higher power can help us find meaning in our trials and give us the strength to move forward.

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> Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.
>
> *— John 13:14*

Book: New Testament / John
Topics: neighbor, humility, Jesus, serving

Interpretation:
In *John 13:14, Jesus* teaches us a powerful lesson about humble service and the importance of helping others. He, as Lord and Teacher, humbled himself and washed the feet of His disciples. He did this to show them that as followers of Christ, we too must learn to serve others in humility and love.

In a world that often values ??success, power, and wealth, Jesus reminds us that true success and true greatness come through humble service. He calls us to follow His example and be a blessing to

others.

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> A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.
>
> *— John 13:34*

Book: New Testament / John
Topics: neighbor, law, love

Interpretation:
This command comes in the context of Jesus's last supper with his disciples. In this pivotal moment, Jesus focuses on teaching his followers the most important commandment they must obey: **"love one another"**.

Jesus emphasizes that this commandment is **"new"**, indicating that it requires a new way of thinking and acting on the part of His disciples. This commandment goes beyond the love and kindness that should exist between people; it is a love that must be based on the unconditional love that Jesus showed his followers.

The command to love one another is one of the fundamental pillars of the Christian faith. However, the love that Jesus calls us to show is not a superficial love based on our emotions, but a sacrificial love that gives everything for another, even at the cost of itself. *This is the kind of love that Jesus demonstrated by dying on the cross for our sins*.

Loving others the way Jesus loved us is a challenge we face every day. This requires us to put aside our own comfort and selfishness to serve others and help meet their needs. This may mean simply listening and comforting someone who is going through a difficult time, or it may require an ongoing commitment to helping those less fortunate than us.

One way to apply Jesus' new command is to show love and compassion to our friends, family, and coworkers. Instead of focusing on our own needs and desires, we must find ways to support others and work for their well-being.

We can also apply this command by serving our local community or working on international humanitarian projects. These efforts allow us to share the love of Jesus by serving those who need our support and help.

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> John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”
> — *Luke 3:11*

Book: New Testament / Luke
Topics: neighbor, clothing, food, giving, materialism, poverty

Interpretation:
The Gospel of Luke introduces us to the story of *John the Baptist*, who called the multitudes to repent of their sins and be baptized in the Jordan River. In this context, *verse 3:11* is an expression of the Christian ethic, which focuses on helping and being generous to those who are most in need.

The importance of sharing

John the Baptist’s call for help and fellowship should not be underestimated or ignored. In this verse, we are reminded that it is our responsibility to share with those in need. Sharing is more than just giving alms or doing charity, it is essentially an attitude we should adopt towards those who are less fortunate. It is an expression of love and compassion for our fellow man.

In today’s society, we often tend to focus on our own affairs and concerns. However, John the Baptist’s call reminds us that community and the well-being of others are equally important, and we should value them equally. It is therefore vital to consider everything we can offer to society, from skills and resources to simple acts of caring and attention.

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> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.
> — *Luke 6:36*

Book: New Testament / Luke
Topics: neighbor, Father, goodness

Interpretation:
Mercy is one of the recurring themes in the Bible. From the Old Testament to the New Testament, we find many references to God's mercy and His expectation of us to be merciful. We can find many verses that tell us about our responsibility *as children of God* to be merciful, as described in *Luke 6:36*.

What does this verse mean to us?

In this verse, *Jesus* calls us to imitate *our Heavenly Father* and be merciful to our neighbors. Mercy is an act of love that involves compassion for those who are in a difficult situation or have committed a wrong. And while this message seems simple, it is not always easy to put into practice.

Being merciful means constantly making an effort to be non-judgmental and to treat others with compassion and love, even if they have harmed us or done something injustice. This does not mean that we should be condescending towards other people's bad behavior, but rather that we should treat them with respect and help them correct their mistakes.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these.
> — *Mark 12:31*

Book: New Testament / Mark
Topics: neighbor, law, love, selfishness

Interpretation:
In the Gospel of Mark 12:31, Jesus teaches that the second greatest commandment is to *love your neighbor as yourself*. This teaching is a natural extension of the previous commandment, which is *to*

love God with all your heart, all your strength, and all your mind. Jesus teaches that there are no other commandments greater than these two.

A natural question many might ask when reading this verse is: Who is our neighbor? Jesus answered this question in the parable of the Good Samaritan. In the story, a man is attacked and injured on the road. Three people pass by, but only the Samaritan stops and helps the man. Jesus shows that our neighbor is anyone in need, even someone we don't know or who comes from a different religion or culture.

The commandment to love our neighbor is fundamental to our relationships with others. This commandment calls us to look beyond our differences and see all people as equal before God. The practice of loving our neighbor has many concrete consequences in our daily lives: helping those in need, compassion for those who suffer, forgiving those who harm us, and an attitude of service to others.

An essential part of the commandment to love our neighbors is to love ourselves. What we need is not self-centeredness, but a healthy attitude toward our human value and the image of God that we carry within ourselves. If we learn to love ourselves and treat ourselves with respect, we will be able to project this love and respect onto others.

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> To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.
>
> — *Mark 12:33*

Book: New Testament / Mark
Topics: neighbor, heart, love, mind, sacrifice, strength

Interpretation:
In this Bible verse, *Jesus* teaches us the importance of loving our neighbor as ourselves. According to Jesus, this is more important than any sacrifice or burnt offering we can make in the name of faith. The command to love our neighbor as ourselves is a recurring theme in the Bible, and its importance is reflected in several passages, such as *Leviticus 19:18* and *Matthew 22:39*. In *Mark*

12:33, *Jesus* reminds us of this command and encourages us to live it with our whole being.

How can we apply this command in our daily lives?

Loving our neighbor as ourselves is not easy, but Jesus sets an example for us. He dedicated much of His ministry to helping those in need, healing the sick and feeding the hungry. This command can be applied in many ways. It can start with treating others with respect and dignity, regardless of their background, race, gender, or beliefs. We should be willing to help those in need, compassionate and kind.

We can also put the concept of empathy into practice by treating others as we would like to be treated in a similar situation. We should pay attention to other people's problems and look for ways to help them solve them.

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> Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.”
> — *Matthew 18:21-22*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: neighbor, Forgiveness, grace, mercy, sin

Interpretation:
In the Bible verses *Matthew 18:21-22*, we find *Peter* asking *Jesus* how many times he should forgive his brother who had wronged him. In this passage, Jesus emphasizes the importance of forgiveness and how we should learn to forgive our neighbors.

The value of forgiveness

To better understand the value of forgiveness, it is important to know the meaning of the word. Forgiveness involves releasing another person from the punishment or revenge that they deserve for hurting us. In other words, forgiveness is releasing guilt and pain so that you can move on.

That is why Jesus answers Peter by saying that we should forgive not only seven times, but seventy-seven times. In other words, we should learn to forgive always. That is, we should forgive not just once, but several times, without any reasonable limit.

The importance of forgiveness

Jesus also shows us an example of the importance of forgiveness in our lives. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says, *“For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins” (Matthew 6:14-15)*.

This teaching of Jesus shows that forgiveness is crucial to our happiness and well-being. When we forgive others, we free our hearts from bitterness and resentment and allow ourselves to freely experience inner peace and harmony with others.

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> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave.
> *— Matthew 20:26-27*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: neighbor, humility, serving, slavery

Interpretation:
Matthew 20:26-27 is written in the context of a discussion about greatness in the kingdom of God. The disciples *James and John*, along with their mother, approached *Jesus* to ask permission to sit on His right and left sides in His glory.

Jesus responded by telling them that they did not know what they were asking for, since they could not drink from the same cup of suffering that He did, and that they must humble themselves to follow His example. Jesus then teaches them that greatness in the kingdom of God is not achieved through power or authority, but through service and humility.

What does it mean to serve others?

The Gospel of Matthew presents us with this phrase from the lips of Jesus, who is speaking to His disciples to teach them about the importance of service and humility in their lives. In these verses, Jesus teaches them that it is not about seeking glory, power, or authority, but about serving others and being available to them.

The word "slave" comes from the Latin "servus." However, in the context of this verse, it is not about forced or imposed slavery, but about a personal choice to serve others. Being a servant means putting the needs of others above your own, humbling yourself before them, and being willing to help.

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> And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’
>
> *— Matthew 22:39*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: neighbor, law, love

Interpretation:
One of the most important commandments in the Bible is *“Love your neighbor as yourself.”* This command was given *by Jesus* in the Gospel of Matthew and is found in many other Bible passages.

The meaning of the words “Love your neighbor as yourself”

The meaning of this commandment seems very clear and straightforward: *we are to treat others with the same love and respect that we treat ourselves*. But what does it really mean to love someone?

Love is not only affection or concern for someone, but also acting for their good. We must do everything we can to help others as we do ourselves.

The importance of love in our everyday lives

Love is a powerful transformative force in our lives and the foundation of our Christian faith. When we love our neighbor as ourselves, we fulfill God’s law and draw closer to Him.

Moreover, love helps us to establish healthy and harmonious relationships with others, promoting peace and healthy coexistence. It also helps us to understand the needs of others and to act humbly and selflessly, helping others without expecting anything in return.

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> So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.
> — *Matthew 7:12*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: neighbor, law, prophecy, relationships

Interpretation:
In Matthew 7, *Jesus* gives His disciples a series of instructions, including how they should treat others and how they will be treated in return. In verse 12, Jesus introduces what is known as the Golden Rule.

What is the Golden Rule?

The Golden Rule is an ethical principle found in many cultures, although it is perhaps best known as a teaching of Judeo-Christian philosophy. In its simplest form, the Golden Rule states that we should treat others as we would like to be treated. This includes a high degree of empathy and understanding for others, as well as a personal commitment to kindness and fairness in our lives.

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> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.
> — *Philippians 2:3*

Book: New Testament / Philippians
Topics: neighbor, humility, selfishness

Interpretation:

Philippians 2:3 reminds us of the importance of humility in the Christian life. This virtue is defined as the willingness to acknowledge one's own limitations and weaknesses and to accept the superiority of others without feeling resentful or envious. Humility is contrasted with arrogance, vanity, pride, and selfishness—worldly attitudes that distance us from God and our brothers and sisters.

Competition and vanity

The apostle *Paul* warns us not to do anything out of selfish ambition or conceit. Competitiveness is unfair competition with others in which we seek to prove that we are better, smarter, or more successful than they are. Vanity is self-idolatry in which we consider ourselves superior to others and seek approval and recognition above all else. Both approaches are harmful to ourselves and others because they cause us to act with pride, jealousy, envy, and dissatisfaction.

Humility and respect for others

Humility means respecting others as beings greater than ourselves. It does not mean that we should look down on ourselves or that others are perfect or infallible. Rather, it means recognizing that others have value and dignity as human beings who deserve our respect and love, even if we disagree with them or if they have hurt us. Humility helps us maintain an open, kind, and compassionate attitude toward others, and be more sensitive and understanding.

The importance of humility in the christian life

Humility is a fundamental virtue in the Christian life because it brings us closer to God and our brothers. Above all, humility makes us aware of our dependence and need for God, who is the sole master of our lives. It helps us to recognize our condition as sinners and to ask for forgiveness and mercy for our mistakes.

Secondly, humility allows us to treat others fairly and equitably, without imposing our will or putting others down. It allows us to be patient, compassionate, generous, and kind to others, just as *Jesus* was to us.

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> Do not forsake your friend or a friend of your family, and do not go to your relative's house when disaster strikes you— better a neighbor nearby than a

> relative far away.
> — *Proverbs 27:10*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: neighbor, family, friendship

Interpretation:
The Bible is full of teachings that guide us to a fulfilling and virtuous life. One of the most important aspects of our lives is true and strong friendship. *Proverbs 27:10* reminds us of the importance of maintaining close relationships during difficult times.

Do not forsake your friend or a friend of your family

We are called to care for our friends and be faithful to them even in difficult and challenging times. This verse shows us the importance of keeping true friends close during times of sorrow, when we most need their support and encouragement. In such moments, it's important to show humility and accept the help of others.

Do not go to your relative's house when disaster strikes you

This verse also emphasizes the importance of close friends, not distant siblings. While family is important, we can have friends who are as close as our own family. True friends are those who are always willing to support us and even sacrifice for us.

The importance of having close friends

In conclusion, the teaching of *Proverbs 27:10* is clear: true friendship is a priceless treasure in any situation. Our close friends can provide us with invaluable support along the path of life, especially during difficult times. We must cherish and nurture these friendships, just as we expect to be good friends in difficult times.

Even when our families are far away, we can find comfort and strength in the close relationships we've built along the way. As Christians, we should follow *Christ's* example of friendship and always strive to cultivate close and sincere friendships in our lives.

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> Arise, Lord! Lift up your hand, O God. Do not forget the helpless.
> *— Psalm 10:12*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms
Topics: neighbor, poverty, Prayer

Interpretation:
The Book of Psalms is a collection of poetic songs and prayers expressing the feelings of the people of Israel toward God in various situations. Psalm 10 describes the oppression and injustice faced by the poor and needy in ancient times, calling on God to intercede for them. Verse 12 of this psalm is a persistent plea for God's help in a social emergency.

The importance of solidarity with the poor

The Bible teaches that God shows special care for the poor and disadvantaged and expects His people to treat them fairly and compassionately. In the Old Testament, the Law of Moses established a number of rules for the protection of the poor, orphans, widows, and foreigners, and the prophets condemned the exploitation of the weak by the rich and powerful.

In the New Testament, *Jesus* showed particular compassion for the poor and sick and encouraged His followers to share their possessions with those in need rather than hoard earthly treasures. The Book of James speaks harshly of the injustice and oppression faced by the poor and calls on the rich to weep and mourn for their sins.

Therefore, *Psalm 10:12* reminds us of the importance of raising our voices and lifting our hands in support of the poor and needy of our time. In a world where economic and social inequality remains a painful reality, we must recognize our responsibility as Christians and as individuals to be agents of change and fight for justice.

The power of prayer

Psalm 10:12 also reveals the psalmist's confidence in the power of prayer to change circumstances. This call is a call to divine action in a moment of despair and helplessness, but it is also an act of faith, recognizing that God can intervene in human history and restore justice.

Prayer is an expression of our dependence on God and devotion to Him, allowing us to turn to Him with humility and trust in His love and power. Prayer is not a magic formula that guarantees the fulfillment of our requests, but a path to encounter with the living God, who hears us and guides us in our daily lives.

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> Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.
> *— Psalm 82:3*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms
Topics: neighbor, orphans, poverty, righteousness, weakness

Interpretation:
Psalm 82:3 is a call to social justice, urging us to protect the weak and orphans, and to show justice to the oppressed and needy. In this verse, God shows us the importance of caring for the vulnerable in our society and providing them with the help and justice they need.

Compassion and empathy

At the time this psalm was written, protecting orphans and the poor was the responsibility of governments and religious leaders. However, today, we can all take part in this work. Each of us can contribute to creating a more just and equal society for all.

It is important to follow *Jesus'* example and show compassion and empathy to those who are suffering and in need. We must teach our children that compassion is an important virtue and that everyone deserves fair and loving treatment. Instead of ignoring those in need, we must find ways to help and support them in their struggles. Therefore, we must do everything possible to support the charities that work tirelessly to improve the lives of those who need it most. We can make donations, offer our time and skills, or simply spread the word about the causes that matter most to us.

Fighting injustice

It's also important to do our part to fight injustice. While it may seem overwhelming to be angry about the problems we face nationally and internationally, we must remember that every small action matters. If we all take action, we can make a significant difference in the world around us.

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> Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.
> — *Romans 12:10*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: neighbor, love

Interpretation:
One of the most important commands *of Christ* to His followers is that we love one another with brotherly love. This is the essence *of Romans 12:10*, where *the apostle Paul* teaches us to love one another with all our hearts and to esteem one another better than ourselves.

What does brotherly love mean?

Brotherly love is a love based on family. It is a love that goes beyond blood and extends to all who are saved *by faith in Christ*. It is a love that puts the welfare of others above our own and moves people to be genuinely and generously involved in the lives of others.

What does it mean to prefer others?

To prefer others means to give others a privileged place in our lives, to treat them with the same respect that we would treat ourselves. It means to honor and respect others and to do everything we can to demonstrate our friendship and affection for them. Rather than seeking personal success or satisfaction, we should seek the welfare of others.

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> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.
> — *Romans 12:18*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: neighbor, life, peace

Interpretation:

Romans 12:18 reminds us of the importance of living in peace with everyone around us. In today's society, we easily find ourselves in situations of conflict and disagreement with others, especially in situations involving political, religious, or social differences.

However, the Bible teaches us that we should do everything possible to maintain peace and avoid unnecessary conflicts.

How can we apply this verse in our daily lives?

The practical application of this verse may seem difficult at first, but there are several ways to achieve it. First, we must learn to control our emotions and avoid expressing negative feelings that others may have toward us. Instead of reacting with anger or resentment, we should try to listen to and understand each other's views and find common ground and equality.

On the other hand, we must also learn to set healthy boundaries in our relationships, especially if we find ourselves in a situation of violence or abuse. In this case, we should not sacrifice our safety or well-being to maintain peace in a toxic relationship.

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> Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.
> — *Romans 13:10*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: neighbor, law, love

Interpretation:
The author, *the Apostle Paul*, wrote this letter to Christians in Rome around 56 CE. At that time, the Church was made up primarily of Jews who had converted to Christianity and Gentiles who were joining the divine faith. However, there were conflicts between the two communities, and Paul wanted to teach them the importance of unity and how to apply the principles of *the Gospel* in their daily lives.

Love does not wicked your neighbor

In *Romans 13:10*, Paul refers to the first commandment of *the Law: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18)*. While the Law is important and God-given, keeping the Law is not only based on following the rules it sets, but also on loving God and your neighbor.

Paul reminds us that love is the foundation of every just and good law, and that if our behavior is motivated by love, we will never harm our neighbor.

Love as a form of keeping the Law

When we speak of love as a form of keeping the Law, we are not speaking of superficial or conditional love, but of the love that comes from God and His grace. This love not only frees us from sin, but also enables us to love others as God loves us. It is important for us Christians to understand that our ability to love does not come from ourselves, but from God and His Spirit who dwells within us.

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> The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”
>
> *— Romans 13:9*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: neighbor, law, love

Interpretation:
Before we delve into the teachings of *Romans 13:9*, we need to understand *the Ten Commandments*. These commandments are part of *the Law of God* given to *Moses* on Mount Sinai.

It is interesting to note that the Ten Commandments are not presented as a list of arbitrary rules, but as the basis for the relationship between God and His people. The first four commandments focus on man’s duties to God, and the last six focus on human relationships.

The commandment quoted in *Romans 13:9* is part of the last six commandments. In this list we find prohibitions against adultery, murder, theft, and false testimony, among other things. All of these prohibitions are fundamental to a just and orderly society.

Love your neighbor as yourself

The instruction in *Romans 13:9* is a summary of the Ten Commandments, but with additional teaching. This commandment does not simply prohibit negative practices, but calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves.

It is important to understand that this commandment is in the context of civil law and government. Paul reminds the Roman Christians that, although they must obey the laws of their country, their true allegiance is to God and His commandments of love.

Loving one's neighbor means treating others with respect, compassion, and empathy. It means actively working to promote the well-being of others, rather than simply seeking to avoid harming them. In the context of the Ten Commandments, loving one's neighbor means respecting their rights, property, and reputation.

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> Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.
>
> — *Romans 14:13*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: neighbor, gentleness, judgment

Interpretation:
One of the greatest conflicts that arise in human relationships is, without a doubt, judging others. In many cases, we interfere in the lives of others by expressing our opinions about what they do, decide, or think, without taking into account that, as individuals, each of us has our own point of view.

This verse from *Romans 14:13* gives us an important recommendation: avoid judging and care for our brothers, lest they fall into temptation.

Let us not judge one another

The Apostle Paul asks us in this verse from Romans not to judge one another. This means that we, as Christians, should avoid making hasty judgments without taking into account that each person has a history and context that justifies their actions.

We are all different, and so what feels right to me may not feel right to someone else. This suggestion is directly related to the core principle of the Christian faith: *love for one's neighbor*.

Don't cause a fall

The second commandment in *Romans 14:13*, which asks us not to cause our brothers to fall or stumble, can be understood as a call to be more careful in our actions and words.

As Christians, it is important for us to be aware of the impact our actions can have on others. We must consider how our actions may impact those around us, especially those who are new to their faith journey or who are struggling.

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> One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind.
> — *Romans 14:5*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: neighbor, obedience, sabbath, wisdom

Interpretation:
Romans 14:5 presents us with an important distinction between different interpretations of the importance of days. From a Christian perspective, some believe that certain days should be more sacred than others, while others believe that all days are equal.

This discrepancy has led to disagreements and conflicts between people, but *Paul* suggests in this verse that everyone should be completely sure of what they think.

What does this mean for us?

When we are faced with differences in interpretation of faith, it is important to remember that everyone is entitled to their own opinion. Often these differences arise because of the context around us and how we interpret *the scriptures*. Instead of insisting that we are "right" and others are "wrong," we should respect the differences in faith and understand that they can enrich our view of the world.

Moreover, *the Bible* teaches us that it is important to trust our own beliefs. We should not allow others to make us feel bad about God just because they do not share our opinions. Instead, we should seek a closer relationship with God and be confident in our own understanding of Scripture.

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> Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up.
> — *Romans 15:2*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: neighbor, encouragement, selfishness

Interpretation:
Apostle Paul in his letter to the *Romans 15:2* tells us to please our neighbor for his good, which means that we should consider the needs and desires of others and do everything we can to please them, as long as it does not conflict with our biblical principles.

This is a very different attitude than what we often encounter in the world, where people tend to think only about themselves and do not care about others. But as followers *of Christ*, we must be different by showing humility and love for our neighbors.

Building as the goal of our relationships

The ultimate goal of our relationships with others should be their edification. We must realize that our actions and words can both help and harm others, so we must strive to build up and support those around us. We must always remember that every action we take can be an opportunity to have a positive impact on someone else.

It is important to remember that this does not mean that we should please everyone at the expense of our own well-being. The Bible teaches us that we should keep a safe distance from people who can have a negative influence on us. But if we can help and be a blessing to someone, we should do so.

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> Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.
>
> — *Romans 15:7*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: neighbor, Jesus, worship

Interpretation:
Romans 15:7 calls us to welcome one another as *Christ* welcomed us, to the glory of God. In other words, *the apostle Paul* is calling us to unity and harmony in the Christian community and showing us the example of how Christ welcomed us in His love so that we can do the same with others.

Explaining the idea

It is easy to feel comfortable with those who share our beliefs, interests, and opinions, but what happens when we encounter people with whom we disagree or who do not share our worldview? The truth is that in our Christian lives we must be willing to welcome everyone without exception, regardless of their race, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic level, or any other aspect.

We have an example *in Christ* because He made no exceptions or discriminated; He lovingly and gracefully welcomed all people who came to Him, regardless of their social, religious, or cultural background. Therefore, as Christians, we must follow His example and welcome everyone into our lives, showing them love and respect, just as God Himself does with us.

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> You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.
>
> — *Romans 2:1*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: neighbor, judgment, righteousness

Interpretation:

Romans 2:1 challenges us to consider our role as humans in judging others. In this verse, the *Apostle Paul* criticizes the attitude of people who think they have the right to judge others without realizing that they are judging themselves.

What does it mean to be unforgivable?

The verse begins by stating that a person is *“unforgivable.”* This means that all people are accountable to God and cannot justify their behavior. This idea is developed throughout *Scripture* and has much to say about the relationship between God and humanity.

Our role in judging others

In today’s society, judging others has become more common and normal. Thanks to social media and polarized opinions, judging others has become commonplace.

However, *Romans 2:1* challenges us to consider our attitude toward others. If we are willing to judge others, we must be willing to face the same criticism and judgment.

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> This is what the Lord Almighty said: ‘Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Do not plot evil against each other.’
> — *Zechariah 7:9-10*

Book: Old Testament / Zechariah
Topics: neighbor, compassion, evil, gentleness, righteousness, widows

Interpretation:
In *Zechariah 7:9-10*, we find a clear and compelling command. These verses call us to consider the importance of treating our neighbors fairly and kindly, regardless of their social status or background.

Judge by truth

Zechariah 7:9-10 begins directly with the divine command to be just. "Judge by truth" indicates that we must be fair and truthful in our decisions and judgments.

Truth plays a vital role in our lives, and it is important to always seek it in everything we do. It's easy to succumb to the temptation to bend the truth to suit our needs or desires, but truth must not be falsified. We must always seek the truth and make fair judgments.

Show mercy and compassion to one another

The verses continue with a call to be merciful and compassionate to our brothers and sisters. Here, the word "brother" refers to all people in general. We should be merciful to everyone, not just our closest ones.

Compassion and mercy are closely linked to love and empathy and are essential for a thriving society. We must be able to put ourselves in others' shoes and treat them with love and compassion.

What does it mean to oppress?

To better understand this commandment, it's important to understand the meaning of the word "oppress." According to the dictionary, oppress means "to unjustly subjugate, seriously disturb, cause distress, or upset." In other words, oppressing someone involves the unjust use of force and power over them, causing harm and suffering.

The importance of protecting the most vulnerable

Zechariah's commandment reminds us of the need to protect the most vulnerable members of our society: widows, orphans, foreigners, and the poor. These people often suffer the most from injustice and violence at the hands of those in power. Our duty as Christians is to care for them and ensure their rights are respected.

Furthermore, Zechariah doesn't limit himself to mentioning these specific groups of people; he also calls us not to entertain evil thoughts against our brothers and sisters. This means that we should not judge others or treat them poorly because of prejudice or malicious ideas.

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