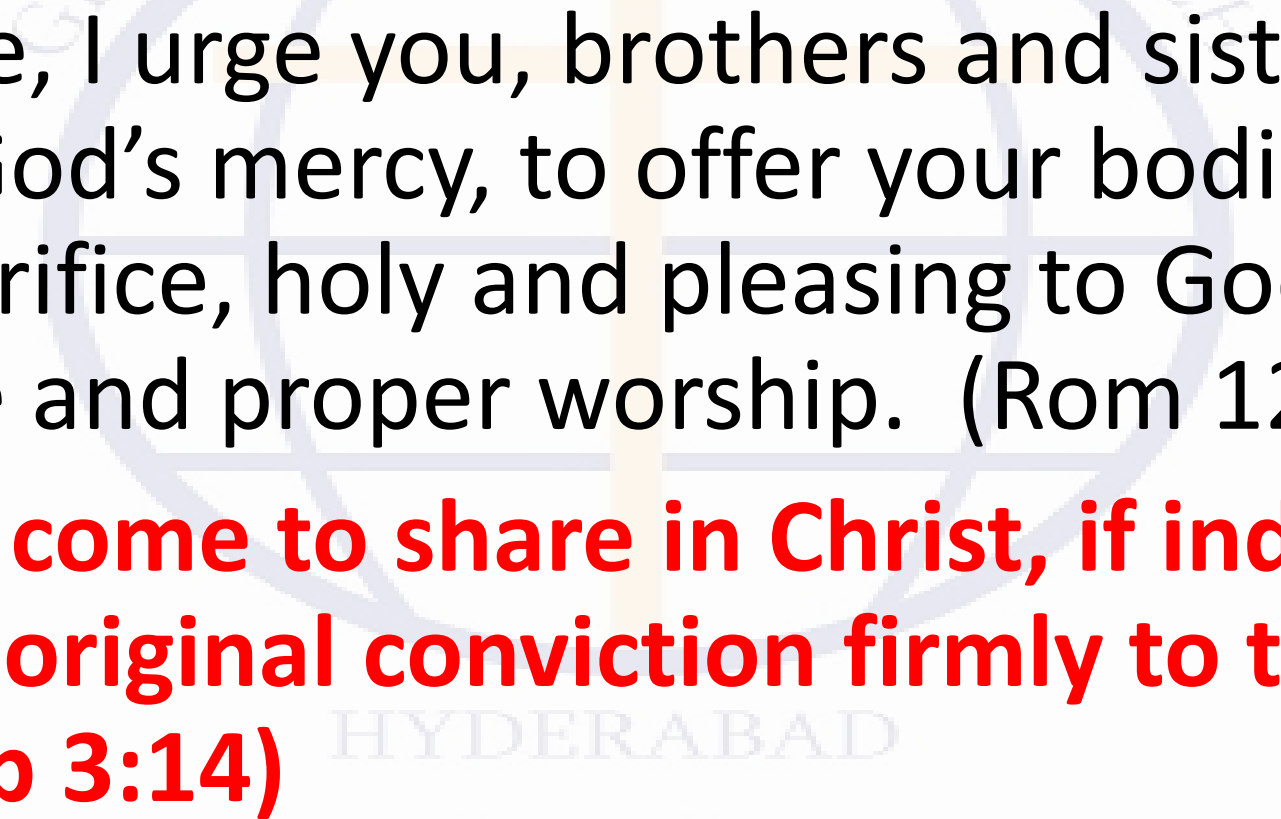


PARTICIPATING IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST



- 
- Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. (Rom 12:1)
 - **We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end. (Heb 3:14)**

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Our Relationship with God

- Salvation is a relationship; saved into a relationship
- Exodus 20:2 “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.” Covenant came before laws
- This relationship is with a person – not a set of laws
- To be in a loving relationship is to do loving things – fellowship – enjoying the persons.

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Participation: What it is not

• Quietism

- Nothing for me to do
- kingdom is in future, so just wait for it
- Passive
- We need to be a sign / witness / give hope for the kingdom

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Participation: What it is not

• **Antinomianism**

- We live in freedom, hence don't need any principles
- Grace abounds, thus keep sinning
- Our life-style does not matter
- We are a sign / witness / gives hope for the kingdom

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Participation: What it is not

• **Triumphalism / Activism**

- We have to build the kingdom
- God is dependent on us to establish it
- With enough human effort the kingdom can be built
- Kingdom not product of human effort
- It is a gift of God to us
- We are a sign / witness / gives hope for the kingdom

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Participation: What it is

- With regards to yourself
- With regards to others



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With regards to yourself

- **I am loved unconditionally**

- “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. (John 15:9)
- My greatest need is met
- Perfectly fulfilled in Christ
- Living in that love is a participation in the life of Christ



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With regards to yourself

- **Desire to know right from wrong**

- “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.” (Matt 5:6)
- Sensitive to that which is ungodly
- Flee circumstances of temptation and evil
- Attempting to do right in all circumstances – upholding moral standards
- Perfection cannot be achieved in this lifetime.



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With regards to yourself



• Remaining hopeful in suffering

- Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. (1 Peter 4:12-13)
- Suffering inevitable in this sinful world
- Christ took the sin – Participating in his suffering as we face suffering with hope
- Without Christ – suffering has no meaning or value

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With regards to others



become a community

With regards to others



• Affirm One Another

- Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. (Romans 15:7)
- Just as Christ accepted you - Accept in spite of faults
- Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Eph 4:32) (Video: The Power of forgiveness)

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With regards to others



• Share with one another

- Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. (Gal 6:2)
- Christ shared His life

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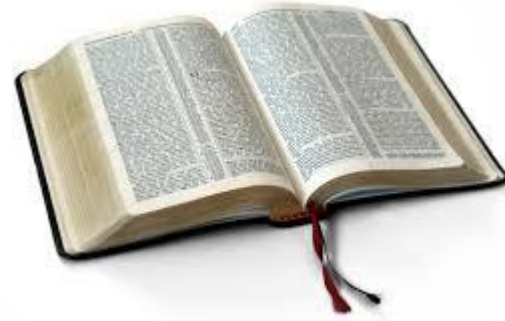
With regards to others



- **Serve one another**

- You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh ; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbour as yourself.”

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John 13

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

*Be Blessed
and
Become a Blessing*