

The Church's Social Contract

Ecclesiastes 4:7-12

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Psalms 34:19

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Some expectations of those governed under Christ

- I. To work for the benefit of more than just yourself
- II. To use your blessings for those in need
- III. To stand against the world's sinfulness

Again, I saw vanity under the sun: one person who has no other, either son or brother, yet there is no end to all his toil, and his eyes are never satisfied with riches, so that he never asks, “For whom am I toiling and depriving myself of pleasure?” This also is vanity and an unhappy business.

But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away

from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

And he called his disciples to him and said to them,
“Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more
than all those who are contributing to the offering
box.

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!

“You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

Better is open rebuke
than hidden love.

Faithful are the wounds of a friend;
profuse are the kisses of an enemy.

And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle,
encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient
with them all.

Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how
can one keep warm alone?

And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word

that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us from out

of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you,
O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship
the golden image that you have set up.”

Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the Lord delivers him out of them all.