

What should a Christian abhor? **All evil.**  
 How should Christians treat one another?  
**With brotherly love.**  
 How should a Christian carry on his business?  
**As service to the Lord.**  
 What should he be faithful in? **In prayer.**  
 What should he love to do? **Give to the needy.**  
 How should he treat his enemies? **Love them.**  
 With whom should he rejoice? **With the happy.**

With whom should he weep? **With them that weep.**

#### Words with Little People.

How is a Christian child known? By a cheerful, loving spirit; a willingness to give up his own way; a diligent doing of his tasks; a patience in trial; a love for giving, and a sympathizing heart.

#### Whisper Motto.

More like Jesus.

### EXPLANATORY AND PRACTICAL NOTES.

#### General Statement.

We have for study to-day still another excerpt from Paul's letter to the Romans. It is taken from that part of the epistle which is more practical than doctrinal—a fervid exhortation to that holy living which is the inevitable outgrowth of a personal application of the doctrines of redemption. The epistle urges an entire consecration of our composite nature to God: (1) that our bodies shall be his temples, each one of us a place of residence for the divine Being; (2) that our minds shall be his enthusiastic servants—all our memory being stored with God's thoughts, all our imagination being astir with God's purposes, all our ingenuity being devoted to God's glory and to the good of man; and (3) that our souls shall live up to the high ideal which Christ gives us of sonship, heirship, companionship with the Almighty. All this is included in the thought of the first verse. As the result of this consecration we are not to be anxious for conformity with the world; but to be “new creatures;” humble; lovingly related to every other member of Christ's Church; attending each to his own business, and devoting his chief energies to the mastery of the duties which Providence has laid on his own doorstep; loving everybody; “in honor preferring one another;” diligent, fervent, joyful, patient, prayerful, merciful, hospitable, magnanimous, sympathetic.

**Verse 1. Therefore.** Because of the doctrinal truths already stated; as a consequence of the atonement made by Christ and of all the grand privileges of faith. As Dr. Barnes has said, neither our Lord nor his disciples give us any doctrine to philosophize or speculate about; Gospel truths are to be put into practice. **By the mercies of God.** On account of them. What these mercies are has been shown throughout Paul's teaching concerning redemption and justification. **That ye present.** As the sacrificial offering of a worshiper. **Your bodies.** Your souls have been given to God by the solemn decisions of the hour of your conversion and by the holy rite of baptism; but what good in this world is a soul without a body? An honest soul and thieving fingers cannot agree; nor a chaste soul and wayward eyes; nor a devout soul and profane lips. Show your sincerity by holy living. **A living sacrifice.** Jewish sacrifices were of slain animals; so you, indeed, become by this sacrifice dead to the world, but alive to God. **Holy.** Wholly; and, because entirely given to God, entirely sacred. **Acceptable unto God.** What God likes. **Your reasonable service.** This implies two things: (1) that the “reasonable,” sensible thing for us to do is to consecrate ourselves to God; there is every reason for this course, and none against it; (2) that our worship should not be merely formal or ritualistic,

but “reasonable” and sensible—“with the spirit, and with the understanding also.”

**2. Conformed.** Fashioned according to; modeled after. **This world.** Or this age; the spirit of the times. Our motives are spiritual and come from the eternal world; therefore those whose thoughts are bounded by temporal life have little in common with us. **Transformed.** Transfigured; as Christ was in body, luminous and glorious, so we are to be in soul. **Your mind.** Your whole interior nature. **Prove.** Test. **Good . . . acceptable . . . perfect will of God.** By putting God's commands to a practical test by your perfect obedience, you will demonstrate, to yourself and to others, that they are inherently good and delightful; that they win the favor of God and of good men; that, in short, they are perfect in wisdom and justice and love.

**3. I say, through the grace.** Paul usually tells us when he is uttering a personal opinion; he occasionally announces directly the immediate inspiration of God. Here he declares that his exhortations are given with apostolic authority and by the movings of the divine Spirit. **To think,** etc. Dr. Marvin R. Vincent calls attention to the beautiful play of words in the Greek of this clause, and skillfully translates: “Not to be high-minded above what he ought to be minded, but to be minded unto the being sober-minded.” Don't be