

III. LOWLY IN MIND.

Not to think....more highly. v. 3.

"In lowliness of mind." Phil. 2, 3, 4.

"Blessed....poor in spirit." Matt. 5, 3.

IV. USEFUL IN WORKING.

Gifts differing....grace. v. 4-8.

"Worthy of the vocation." Eph. 4, 1, 2.

"From whom the whole body." Eph. 4, 16.

V. DECIDED IN CHARACTER.

Ahbor....evil; cleave to....good. v. 9.

"Love the Lord, hate evil." Psalm 97, 10.

"No wicked thing....mine eyes." Psalm 101, 2, 3.

VI. FRATERNAL IN AFFECTION.

Be kindly affectioned. v. 10.

"To godliness, brotherly kindness." 2 Peter 1, 7.

"Have love one to another." John 13, 35.

VII. FERVENT IN SPIRIT.

Fervent in spirit. v. 11.

"Do it heartily." Col. 3, 23.

"Do it with thy might." Eccles. 9, 10.

Thoughts for Young People.

Our Duties as Young Christians.

1. *We, being many, are one body in Christ.* Each one is to keep from doing any other person's duty, but each one is responsible for doing all of his own.

2. *We are to give ourselves to our work.* One reason for inefficiency is a lack of interest in our work, and a want of consecration to it. We need the spirit of consecration when we undertake to do any work for God. We are to wait upon it; to "give ourselves" to it. This one thing we are to do.

3. *We should be sensible Christians.* Our holy living is to be based on our thorough consecration to God, and our thorough consecration is the reasonable outcome of the doctrine which we have been taught from infancy—the atonement made by Christ.

4. *We are to be sympathetic.* That is the only way in which we can be like our Lord, and our sympathy is to extend to everybody in the Church and out of the Church.

Lesson Word-Pictures.

I seem to see the church of Rome gathered to hear the letter that Phebe has brought from the apostle Paul. I look around and say, "Here are Priscilla and Aquila, Mary, Junia, Rufus and his mother—all in that precious fellowship of the church at Rome." And Phebe, who brought the letter, may be the one to unroll and read it. At last I hear her clear, musical voice reading this twelfth chapter, touching, as if organ keys, those subjects of consecration, prophecy, teaching, love, joy, and other virtues, till the very place seems to echo with the notes of a sweet, jubilant

chorus. What beautiful ideals of life she holds up! You can see them as if painted on the wall.

Then I see this same Phebe going out, and before the world she makes pictures copied after those ideals.

She passes some heathen temple. She sees the altar of sacrifice, and catches the flash and hears the crackle of the fire that wraps some poor, lifeless brute. She thinks of Jerusalem, where that very day the flames devoured a dead sacrifice on the temple's altars, and she recalls Paul's words about a living sacrifice, and she resolves to be that better offering whose consuming fire shall be her own burning consecration. She goes to her duties, finding altars in her opportunities and her obligations; and her hands, feet, lips, eyes, ears, she gives to Jesus. I watch her as she moves along Rome's bustling streets; but her life, while meeting the city's life, is not conformed to it, but transformed, shaped into the ideals and patterns of a world unseen, yet all about the inner sense, its sounds seraphic make their rapt melody evermore in her soul. She moves humbly among the members of the flock of Jesus, never as if she saw more and felt more of heaven than they, or carried more of earth's responsibilities. She aims to be, and is, a fitting realization of Paul's words about the one body and many members, and she tries to serve in her place and help make effective the activity of all others in their spheres.

Her mind lies open to the Spirit, and she responds to the pressure of his gracious biddings. In the congregation she hears the still, small voice down in the depths of her soul. I see her standing up. She opens the gates of speech, and then the Spirit will prophesy, teach, exhort, through her lips. She loves the church, and goes among the poor and needy with open hands, showering benefactions; and with what cheerfulness in her tones, and with what sunniness in every feature! She is a gospel of good cheer. And in all her love and radiance of spirit, what sincerity! what purity!

How she hates evil! See Phebe when she denounces wrong and turns from it! With what enthusiasm she goes to the good and stands by it! Is she lowly in her temper? asks one, or is humility only a veil for ambition? Ah, it is refreshing to see how she will insist upon crowning others with honor, Priscilla or Mary or Tryphosa. It is enough for Phebe if she make the crowns.

Some are always present when the honors are given out, but what about the duties? You may miss Phebe in the day of coronations, but she is on hand when work is assigned; and how tireless she is! If she be in the market place to care for business that is her own, she is never slothful, and in it all she never forgets that she is to serve God more than Phebe. In all her paths that she plans you will see her heavenly Father's footprints. But