

AS CHRISTIANS, WE CARE ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE

Note to the speaker:

Our caring about other people proves that we are true Christians. Jehovah sets the example for us. Show how this can be done today in *practical* ways

JEHOVAH—A MATCHLESS EXAMPLE IN CARING ABOUT OTHERS (5 min.)

If asked who is the greatest example of caring about others, our reply should be, Jehovah

Although he is the Universal Sovereign, he is sensitive to needs of his creatures (Lu 12:6, 7; *g87* 10/22 14)

Depth of his caring is evident in both his creation and his written Word

Earth abounds with his provisions for our comfort and happiness (*w89* 12/1 4)

His creative works prove his wisdom and goodness (Job 5:9, 10; Ps 104:24; 145:7, 15, 16)

The Bible directs attention to God's goodness and care for humans

Care God showed in providing Jesus as ransom recommends His love (Read 1 John 4:9, 10)

Humans often quit caring about others when there appears to be no response, but God has not done so

God's displays of care and love for others should be examples to us (Read 1 John 4:11)

Unselfishly caring for neighbors is the second-greatest command of Law (Mt 22:39)

By showing this loving care, we uphold God's way of doing things and his sovereignty

Let us consider practical aspects of how we can, in everyday life, show that we care about others

CARE FOR OTHERS INCLUDES EVEN PEOPLE WE DO NOT KNOW (7 min.)

We see evidence today of increasing lack of concern for others (*tp* 165-6)

Worldly people take the selfish view of caring only for self or, at most, for their own friends and family

Disregard for the person and property of others is evident (Adapt to local conditions)

It is common to see people pushing greedily ahead of others in lines

Vandals deface private and public property; lazy disregard for others is manifested in the littering of parks, streets, and public transportation

This is blatant disrespect for others, a lack of caring about others (*g70* 7/8 3-4)

One thus destroys what others have the right to enjoy: clean surroundings

Christian who cares about others will resist or overcome tendencies to be indifferent

When coming to appreciate Jesus' counsel at Matthew 7:12 (read), he sees need for change

In this regard, one becoming a Christian must make his mind over (Ro 12:1, 2)

Thinking in terms of others, what is good for them, helps us to act properly

If your area or building is dirtied by others, do what you can to be clean (Ro 12:21)

Your children and others will see that your good example agrees with what you teach from the Bible

Caring about others' property will help you to show care in various areas of life

For example, if you care about someone enough that you would not even dirty his surroundings, would you steal his property, his good name, or his wife?

IN YOUR CARING ABOUT OTHERS, IMITATE GOD'S IMPARTIALITY (7 min.)

The world is partial regarding racial, national, and social differences; does it influence us? (*g89* 4/8 9-11)

Prejudice about race has led to much inhuman treatment and violence (*g89* 2/8 12-14)

Some display lack of loving concern for others because of social, financial, or educational differences

Before becoming Christians, we may have been strongly influenced by such feelings

Here, too, is need to make mind over, transforming our thinking and motives

The Bible recommends caring about others, without regard to race, nationality, or social status (*tp* 168-9)

Scriptures prove that we are all related, come from Adam

In what way does Romans 3:23 (read) allow for regarding others as higher or lower?

God desires all, regardless of nationality, race, or social status, to attain to repentance (2Pe 3:9)

Should Christians carrying God's message of salvation show partiality? (*w88* 5/15 10-15)

Ought to take message of life to all, regardless of their background or status

In the parable of the kindly Samaritan, God's Son urged impartial caring (Lu 10:29-37)

Though there was general animosity between Jews and Samaritans, this man was moved by his mercy and care for others (After relating, stress last phrase of verse 34)

In words, thoughts, and deeds, we should recognize dignity of all people, displaying our care

CONCERN FOR OTHERS' FEELINGS SHOWS WE TRULY CARE (7 min.)

Imitation of God's care for others includes considering their feelings (*tp* 167-8)

Bible specifically recommends such concern for others' feelings (Read Ephesians 4:32-5:1)

This is not something we originate but is in imitation of God

We can show concern for others' feelings by controlling tongue (Pr 15:4; *w86* 8/15 22-3)

Special care is needed if we are not to expose the various faults of our family members
Might bring pain or shame to wife or husband whose private foibles are aired in public
Parents, consider the feelings of your children, in harmony with Colossians 3:21 (Read)
Concern for others' feelings will help us avoid practical jokes (*g86* 9/22 12-13)
Do such embarrassing, frightening jokes harmonize with the Golden Rule? (Mt 7:12)
We do well to imitate prophet Jeremiah in avoiding such jokes (Read Jeremiah 15:17) (*w78* 1/1 19)
The feelings of some people merit extra care, such as those who are depressed (*w90* 3/15 26-30)
Bible urges us to "speak consolingly to the depressed souls" (1Th 5:14)
Especially if depression recurs or is prolonged, patience and love are put to the test
Will you continue to speak encouragingly, or will you give up, just ignoring the person?
Taking time and effort to help depressed souls is one way to show that you really care

YOUR CARING ABOUT YOUR RELATIVES IS OF INTEREST TO GOD (12 min.)

One area where particular attention is needed involves those who are very close—family, relatives
God's Word shows that we live at a time when natural love for family is on the decline (2Ti 3:3)
Importance of caring for one's family is highlighted in Bible (Read 1 Timothy 5:4, 8)
Has primary application to material care for dependent parents or grandparents (*w87* 6/1 13-18)
A kind arrangement, where possible, is to care for them in children's home or materially assist them so they can continue to have independent life
Some in ill health may need care available only in a hospital or other facility
Principle at 1 Timothy 5:8 indicates the need to provide materially for immediate family
Primary responsibility is the husband's
Husband needs to realize that caring for his family may involve limiting himself in some ways
Wife and children should exercise restraint so that their demands (clothing, toys) do not make husband's caring for family an unreasonable burden
Efforts to provide spiritual care are of greater importance—our eternal welfare is involved (*tp* 172-4)
Jesus set a fine example as to far-reaching care for one's family (Read Ephesians 5:25-27)
His primary interest in his "bride" was for her 'unblemished' spiritual condition
Like Christ, parents (particularly believing fathers) should discuss "the word" with the family
Persistent efforts to have daily text discussion and weekly family study reflect your care
Parents, would God accept our care for others if we did not care for own children enough to make the time to study with them? (Compare 1 Timothy 3:4, 5)
Those who care deeply consider the current spiritual needs of the family (*w88* 8/1 13-15)
Family study can be varied to fit current needs—Christian's view of holidays, problems at school, getting along in love, involvement in sports, associations
Take the initiative to bring Bible truth to your unbelieving relatives (*w90* 2/15 25-7)
To do so is to follow the examples of Rahab and Cornelius, who aided their relatives (*su* 150-1)
Your relatives may have opposed or rebuffed you in past, but do you care about them enough to try again?
(Speaker: Highlight some of the suggestions in *km* 3/85 4 and *km* 12/83 4)
Since so many who are now Witnesses were helped by relatives, should you not display your care by making increased efforts to share the truth with your relatives?

DEEP CONCERN MARKS CHRISTLIKE PREACHING OF THE GOOD NEWS (3 min.)

Like Christ, our caring about people in general should include helping them spiritually
His deep feeling for people moved him to help primarily by sharing spiritual things (Read Mark 6:34)
Our preaching should be reflection of deep interest in people, not just a duty
We can reflect on the hopeless, confused condition of most people
Do we care enough to prepare well, trying to improve in our teaching methods? (*w89* 11/15 13-14)
This loving concern may result in others' acquiring "the mark" for survival (Eze 9:6)

PROVE YOURSELF TO BE LIKE YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER (4 min.)

Caring about others in material and spiritual ways is an essential aspect of being sons of our heavenly Father
Jesus urged this, saying it was in imitation of God (Read Matthew 5:43-48)
God shows his care by impartially providing material things all need, by being willing to forgive, and by making spiritual provisions that can lead people to eternal life; Christians too should show in these ways that they care
(Speaker: *Briefly* review the various ways we can show concern for others)
By showing care for others in such ways, you "prove yourselves sons of your Father" in heaven

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need to be read)