# **Topic: The responsibility of salvation – Part 3**

**Your responsibility to your brethren**

Text: Philippians 2:1–4; John 13:34–35

**Introduction**

Salvation is personal, but it is never private. When we are saved, God brings us into a spiritual family where how we relate to others matters deeply to Him. Jesus said, “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35). This part focuses on what salvation demands from us in our relationships with fellow believers.

## **Taking responsibility for yourself**

In as much as one of our salvation responsibilities is our responsibility to our brethren, however, the responsibility to yourself is crucial. You cannot pour from an empty vessel and you cannot lead others where you have not gone. Jesus said, “First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye” (Matthew 7:5). Personal responsibility is the foundation for communal responsibility.

* Grow holistically – Commit to spiritual, mental and emotional growth. Study the Bible, read other edifying books, invest in learning for your career, business and relationships (2 Timothy 2:15).
* Be accountable and transparent – Allow trusted mentors or brethren to speak into your life and keep your integrity intact (Proverbs 27:17).
* Avoid living a fake life – Live honestly without pretense. Jesus said, “If your eye is single, your whole body will be full of light” (Matthew 6:22).
* Live an exemplary life – Be a positive example in your marriage, workplace, marketplace and everyday conduct, as Paul commanded: “Be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12).
* Prioritize the discipline of character – Control your appetites, habits and time. A believer who lacks self-control will have challenges influencing others for God’s glory (1 Corinthians 9:27).

## **Our salvation responsibilities to our brethren**

1. **Love genuinely** – **John 13:34–35**
2. Show practical and genuine love that goes beyond words to actions. 2) Love with sincerity and without hypocrisy. 3) Care for others’ needs as much as your own. 4) Be patient and gracious in disagreements. 5) Celebrate others’ successes without envy. 6) Pray for one another consistently.

* Jonathan loved David sacrificially and protected him – 1 Samuel 18:1–4.
* The Good Samaritan went the extra mile to care for a stranger – Luke 10:33–35.

1. **Bear each Other’s burdens – Galatians 6:2**
2. Stand with others in their struggles and weaknesses. 2) Encourage those going through trials. 3) Support others spiritually and emotionally. 4) Share resources when possible. 5) Correct in love, not condemnation. 6) Walk with others through restoration.

* Barnabas encouraged Paul and John Mark when others gave up on them – Acts 9:27; Acts 15:37–39.
* Moses and Aaron supported each other in leading Israel – Exodus 17:10–12.

1. **Forgive freely – Colossians 3:13**
2. Extend to others the same grace you have received. 2) Let go of offenses quickly. 3) Do not keep records of wrongs. 4) Release bitterness for peace of heart. 5) Seek reconciliation, not revenge. 6) Forgive as Christ forgave you.

* Joseph forgave his brothers and provided for them – Genesis 50:19–21.
* Stephen prayed for his killers as he died – Acts 7:59–60.

1. **Encouraging spiritual growth – 1 Thessalonians 5:11**
2. Help others become who God has called them to be and don’t take advantage of them. 2) Speak words that build, not tear down. 3) Share scripture and testimonies for strength. 4) Mentor and disciple younger believers. 5) Challenge others to use their gifts. 6) Celebrate spiritual progress in others.

* Paul constantly wrote letters to strengthen the churches.
* Priscilla and Aquila discipled Apollos *(who later watered as Paul planted – 1 Corinthians 3:6),* privately and lovingly *–* Acts 18:26.

## **When we neglect our salvation responsibilities to our brethren**

1. Selfishness replaces love and unity is broken.
2. Offenses grow into bitterness, damaging relationships.
3. Weak believers fall away without support and sometimes may leave the church.
4. The church loses its witness to the world.
5. Our own spiritual growth becomes stunted.

**Questions for discussion**

1. Why is it important to take responsibility for yourself before taking responsibility for others?
2. How can we practically show love in a world where people often take advantage of others?
3. What are some barriers to forgiving others and how can Grace help us overcome them?
4. In what ways can you actively encourage spiritual growth in someone this week?
5. Where do you think you are neglecting in your salvation responsibility to the brethren?