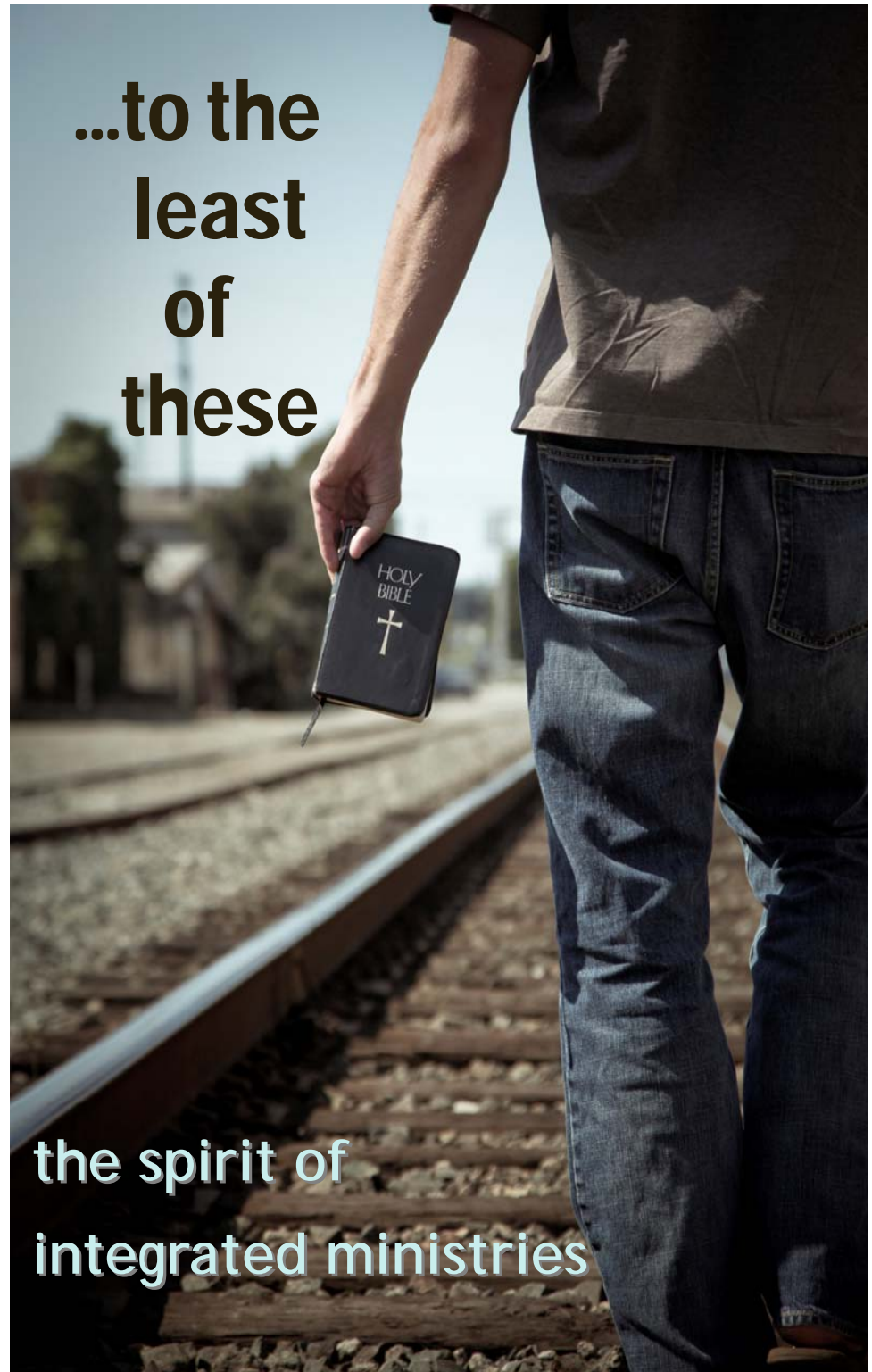


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**...to the
least
of
these**

**the spirit of
integrated ministries**





...Biblical Rationale in Support of Integrated Ministries

Matthew 5:13-16

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

1 Peter 2:12

“Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.”

Deuteronomy 15:11

“There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land.”

Isaiah 49:6

“It is too small a thing for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth.”

Proverbs 31:8-9

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”

Luke 4:17-21

“The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: ‘The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach the good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.’ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began by saying to them, ‘Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.’”





Proverbs 22:9

“A **generous man** will himself be **blessed**, for he **shares his food** with the poor.”

Ezekiel 16:49

“Now this was the **sin** of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters **were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help** the poor and needy.”

Proverbs 22:22-23

“Do not exploit the **poor** because they are poor and **do not crush the needy** in court, for the **LORD will take up their case** and will **plunder** those who plunder them.”

Micah 6:8

“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you?
To **act justly** and to **love mercy**
and to **walk humbly with your God.**”

Proverbs 28:27

“He who **gives to the poor** will lack nothing, but he who **closes his eyes** to them receives **many curses.**”

Proverbs 29:7

“The **righteous care** about **justice for the poor**, but the wicked have no such concern.

Isaiah 58:6-9

“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to **loose the chains of injustice** and untie the cords of the yoke, to **set the oppressed free** and break every yoke? Is it not to **share your food** with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with **shelter**— when you see the naked, to **clothe him**, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. Then **you will call, and the LORD will answer**; you will cry for help, and he will say: **Here am I.**”

I John 3:16-18

“This is how we know **what love is**: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees **a brother or sister in need** but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, **let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.**”

Matthew 25:34-40

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was **hungry** and you gave me something to eat, I was **thirsty** and you gave me something to drink, I was **a stranger** and you invited me in, I **needed clothes** and you clothed me, I was **sick** and you looked after me, I was **in prison** and you came to visit me.’
“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’
“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, **whatever you did for one of the least** of these brothers and sisters of mine, **you did for me.**”





Isaiah 1:16-17

“Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight; **stop doing wrong**. Learn to do right; **seek justice**. **Defend** the oppressed. **Take up the cause** of the fatherless; **plead the case** of the widow.”

II Corinthians 5:18-20

“All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us **the ministry of reconciliation**: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s **ambassadors**, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.”

Ephesians 2:10

“For we are **God’s handiwork**, created in Christ Jesus **to do good works**, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Luke 3:10-14

“What should we do then?” the crowd asked.

John answered, “**Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none**, and anyone who has food should do the same.”

Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”

“**Don’t collect any more than you are required to**,” he told them. Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?”

He replied, “**Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely**—be content with your pay.”

Luke 5:29-32

“Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect **complained** to his disciples, ‘Why do you eat and drink with **tax collectors** and **sinners**?’

Jesus answered them, “It is not the **healthy** who need a **doctor**, but the **sick**. I have not come to call the righteous, but **sinners to repentance**.”

Proverbs 14:31

“He who **oppresses** the poor **shows contempt** for their Maker, but **whoever is kind to the needy honors God**.”

Deuteronomy 10:18

“He **defends the cause** of the **fatherless** and the **widow**, and **loves the foreigner** residing among you, **giving** them food and clothing.”

Galatians 6:7-10

“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man **reaps what he sows**. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap **destruction**; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap **eternal life**. **Let us not become weary in doing good**, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest **if we do not give up**. Therefore, as we have opportunity, **let us do good to all people**, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”

Titus 3:8

“This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to **devote themselves to doing what is good**. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.”





Jeremiah 29:7

“Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. **Pray** to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

Jeremiah 38:4

“Then the officials said to the king, ‘This man should be put to death. He is **discouraging** the soldiers who are left in this city, as well as all the people, by the things he is saying to them. This man is **not seeking the good** of these people but their ruin.’”

Acts 6:1-7

“In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because **their widows were being overlooked** in the daily distribution of food. So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, ‘It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers and sisters, **choose seven men** from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will **turn this responsibility over** to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.’

This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, **a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit**; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.”

Proverbs 14:21

“He who **despises** his neighbor sins, but blessed is he who is **kind to the needy.**”

James 1:27

“Religion that God our Father accepts as **pure and faultless** is this: to **look after orphans and widows** in their distress and **to keep oneself from being polluted** by the world.”

Hebrews 13:2

“Do not forget to **show hospitality to strangers**, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to **angels** without knowing it.”

Luke 7:22-23

“So he replied to the messengers, ‘Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The **blind receive sight**, the **lame walk**, those who have **leprosy are cured**, the **deaf hear**, the **dead are raised**, and the **good news is preached to the poor**. Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me.’”

Proverbs 28:3, 6, 8

“A ruler who **oppresses the poor** is like a **driving rain** that leaves no crops.

“**Better a poor man** whose walk is **blameless** than a **rich man** whose ways are **perverse**.

“He who increases his wealth by **exorbitant interest** amasses it for another, who will **be kind to the poor.**”





Proverbs 21:13

“If a man **shuts his ears** to the **cry of the poor**, he too will cry out and **not be answered.**”

Psalms 146:9

“The LORD **watches over** the foreigner
and **sustains** the fatherless and the widow,
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.”

John 1:41

“The **first thing** Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and **tell** him, ‘We
have found **the Messiah**’ (that is, the Christ).”

Matthew 27:51-53

“At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.
The earth shook, the rocks split and the tombs broke open. The bodies of **many**
holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs af-
ter Jesus’ resurrection and **went** into the holy city and **appeared to many**
people.”

Acts 1:8

“But you will **receive power** when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will
be **my witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of
the earth.”

Job 31:13-23

“If I have denied **justice** to any of my servants,
whether male or female,
when they had a grievance against me,
what will I do **when God confronts me**?
What will I answer when called to account?
Did not he who made me in the womb make them?
Did not **the same one** form us **both** within our mothers?
“If I have denied **the desires of the poor**
or let **the eyes of the widow** grow weary,
if I have kept my bread to myself,
not sharing it with the **fatherless**—
but from my youth I reared them as a father would,
and from my birth I guided the widow—
if I have seen anyone perishing for **lack of clothing**,
or the **needy** without garments,
and their hearts did not bless me
for warming them with the fleece from my sheep,
if I have **raised my hand against** the fatherless,
knowing that I had influence in court,
then let my arm fall from the shoulder,
let it be broken off at the joint.
For I **dreaded destruction from God**,
and for fear of his splendor I **could not do such things.**”

Proverbs 19:17

“He who is **kind to the poor** lends to the LORD, and he will **reward** him for
what he has done.”

James 4:17

“If anyone, then, **knows the good they ought to do** and doesn’t do it,
it is sin for them.”

