

<p>Who is a Christian?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those who answer the call of the gospel (II Thess. 2:13-14). • Those who have been forgiven of sins and sanctified (Acts 2:38; 22:16; I Cor. 1:1-2). • Disciples of Christ and members of the church (Acts 2:41-42; 11:26). • A Christian is one with a duty to perform (Eph. 4:1ff). • A worker or laborer in the kingdom of God (I Thess. 1:2-3). • One Christian (the individual) is not the church and thereby has separate functions to perform than the church (cf. Matt. 18:15ff). 	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Individual Christian Responsibility</h2> <p style="margin: 10px 0;"><i>“Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God”</i> (I Peter 2:17).</p> <p style="margin: 10px 0;"><i>“For this cause I also, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which is among you, and the love which ye show toward all the saints, cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers”</i> Eph. 1:15-16</p>	<p>To identify the Christian’s Responsibilities we must first identify Bible Love:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love (agape) = “brotherly love, charity; the love of God for man and of man for God, N.T.” (LS 4). • John said, “<i>God is love</i>” (I Jn. 4:8, 16). God’s love is made manifest in the fact that He sent His Son, Jesus, for the propitiation of our sins (I Jn. 3:16, 4:10). This good news is revealed in the gospel message. Bible love is not only defined in the gospel but John tells us that truth is equivalent to love (Jn. 15:9-12). The way of salvation is revealed in truth. What better way to say, “I love you,” then to give a book that reveals instructions for one to receive eternal bliss in heaven? God’s love continues today through His word.
<p>The Christian has responsibilities toward the lost of the World:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Christian ought to teach the lost because of a sense of duty to God’s commands (Matt. 28:20; II Tim. 2:2). • The Christian ought to feel indebted to preach to the lost (cf. Rom. 1:14). • The Christian ought to preach because he or she believes in the reality of heaven and hell (II Cor. 4:13-14). • The Christian teaches the lost because he or she knows that such preaching leads to one’s sanctification (Jn. 17:18-21). 		
<p>The Christian’s Responsibility toward other saints of God:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christians are commanded to love one another (Jn. 13:34; I Thess. 4:9; I Pet. 1:22). • I can exercise love toward my brother by caring for their spiritual well being. Said love is exemplified by warning (I Thess. 5:14; Heb. 3:13), exposing sin (Eph. 5:11), and encouraging other Christians to live godly (Heb. 10:24). • I can exercise love toward my brethren by seeing to their physical (I Thess. 3:11-13; James 2:15; I Jn. 3:17) and emotional needs (II Cor. 1:3-4; I Thess. 4:18; 5:14). When a Christian does not attempt to comfort or help another Christian in need by calling, writing, or visiting we may fairly ask, “Where is your love?” (consider Matt. 25:31-46). • The Christian should never “bite and devour” (Gal. 5:15), “provoke” to anger (Gal. 5:26), “envy” (Gal. 5:26), or “hate” (Titus 3:3) a fellow brother. • I have the individual responsibility, as a Christian, to be patient and longsuffering with my brethren (compare II Cor. 8:10; 9:1-2; 12:19-13:2 [Paul waited a year]; I Thess. 5:14 / II Thess. 3:6). • I have an individual responsibility to keep unity and peace within the church (Eph. 4:3). • If a brother sins against me and asks my forgiveness, I ought to forgive (Matt. 18:15ff; Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13). • I may find that I have to “withdraw” myself from one who continues in disorderly conduct (II Thess. 3:6). • To shirk any of my individual responsibilities toward others can have devastating effects. The Christian who does not love and exercise patience with brethren have the power to destroy the unity of a church and the moral of another individual. 		