

I. We are to live a life of mercy

A. There are judgments we should not make

“There is only one lawgiver and judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?” (James 4:12)

1. We cannot judge a person’s heart

“Deal with each man according to all he does, since you know his heart (for you alone know the hearts of men.” (I Kings 8:39)

2. We cannot judge a person’s motives

“Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men’s hearts.” (I Corinthians 4:5)

B. There are judgments we must make

“The spiritual man makes judgements about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man’s judgment.” (I Corinthians 2:15)

1. We should make judgements about behavior

“Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently.” (Galatians 6:1)

2. Our judgment must be from God’s word

II. We are to live a life of forgiveness

A. We are to forgive as Christ forgave us

“Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” (Colossians 3:13)

III. We are to live a life of generosity

A. God will bless us as we give

B. God will bless us in proportion to our giving

IV. We are to live a life of informed leadership

A. To lead we need clear spiritual vision

“I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints.” (Ephesians 1:18)

V. We are to live a life of personal examination

A. We stop focusing on the faults of others

B. We seek God's examination of our own hearts

"Test me, O Lord, and try me, examine my heart and mind." (Psalm 26:1)

C. We can help others once God has helped us

VI. We are to live a life of fruitfulness

A. Our heart condition is revealed through our conduct

B. Our heart condition is revealed through our speech