

ACTS OF WORSHIP: BENEVOLENCE**I. THOUGHTS ON BENEVOLENCE.**

- A. Benevolence is a big word for showing genuine concern and help to those in need. This showing of help and hospitality is very important in remaining faithful to Jesus.
- B. Paul exhorted (taught and encouraged) the brethren in the book of Galatians that we should show help, concern, and love to those around us. In Gal. 6:10 Paul says that we should help all men, especially those of the household of faith (faithful Christians).
- C. It is our job as Christians to do good to all we come in contact with. The showing of hospitality is a very effective way to share the gospel with others. The saying is, "People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care."
- D. James tells us that when we show care to others that we have religion that is pure and undefiled (Jas. 1:27). The areas of church work are that of evangelism, edification, and benevolence. We must take care of widows and orphans to be pleasing to God.
- E. But benevolence goes much further in that not only should we help orphans and widows but we need to realize that whenever we do a kind deed for someone we are doing it for Jesus.
- F. Matthew 25:31-46 tells us of six things that we must do to be acceptable (faithful Christians) in Jesus' eyes. We must feed the hungry, give the thirsty drink, the stranger attention, the naked clothes, the lonely companionship, and company to those in prison. When we do these things the others we are doing them to Christ (Mt. 25 :45).
- G. Jesus condemns those who only help themselves and those of like mind. Jesus wants us to love our enemies, and give aid to those not of our number as He stated in Mt. 5:44-48. To be perfect in God's eyes is to show loving benevolence wherever , and whenever- possible.
- H. There are many ways to show benevolence, even at a very young age. We can clean our sister's (or brother's room), clean a room in the house for Mom, help cut the grass or do yard work for Dad, keep our bathrooms clean and spotless for the next person. We may want to make a small craft for an elderly person, be present and receptive when not-so-often-seen relatives drop in, purchase birthday gifts, loan our bike to friends, or even some clothes if need be.
- I. Being "nice" to others is not sissified or unmanly; rather it is what Jesus wants us to do to be pleasing to Him. Let us continue to do go to all men by meeting their needs in whatever way we can.

II. OUR DUTY TO DO BENEVOLENCE.

See Deut. 15:12-14; Prov. 25:21; Eccl. 11:1; Isa. 58:7; Mt. 5:42; 5:44-48; Lk. 12:33; Ac. 20:35.

III. ENCOURAGEMENT TO DO BENEVOLENCE.

See 2Chr. 31:10; Psa. 112:9; Prov. 11:25; 22:9; Isa. 58:10; Mal. 3:10; Lk. 6 :38; 2Cor. 9:6; Jas. 1:27.