

Living in sweet harmony!

What a beautiful ideal, to live our lives in sweet harmony with God and man.

Still, beautiful and desirable as it may be, it is not the simplest to achieve.

We're All Unique!

A place to start may be with the realization that the relationship of every Christian with his God is uniquely and blessedly different.

The God who makes every snowflake after its own pattern, not only makes every human being exclusively different. He's able to respond appropriately to each person's uniqueness in distinctive ways designed to best meet his needs, provide the finest fellowship with Him, and make best use of his God-fashioned potential to serve the Lord and others.

What He asks of one He does not necessarily ask of another. What constitutes a realizable degree of sweet harmony for one is not the same as for another. Some of us have a lot further to go than do others. ... Just ask me! Some of us find our circumstances more difficult and demanding than others. ... Just ask me!

For this reason we must be most careful to not judge our brothers and sisters in the Lord superficially.

Sacrificial Service A Key

Instead, we can begin learning to say with Paul from our hearts,

"We do all things, dearly beloved, for your edifying."

-II Corinthians 12:19

We are privileged to serve man as well as God. And there's no harmony without glad, sacrificial service.

Out of our heart-service grow blessings beyond measure, not only for others but for ourselves. Among these blessings are the sweet harmony for which our being-saved, being-sanctified spirits long.

To sacrifice our own leisure and pleasure for God and others may have been natural to mankind before the Fall. But it is no more.

Admit Our Native Selfishness

Now, unfortunately, we are natively selfish, self-centered, me-oriented people.

Only God the Spirit can change this. And He can change it only as we agree with Him and willingly acknowledge it. We need constantly to recognize and confess our sinful selfishness both in general and when it shows itself in specific instances.

When our egotism leads us to do or say things that ignore, belittle, aggravate, carelessly impose on, or otherwise hurt others, we need to willingly, open-heartedly admit them as the sin they are to the person we hurt.

This is a good place to begin furthering the process of learning to bend to God, His Word and His will.

It's a good place to begin furthering the process of learning to live in sweet

harmony with God, Father, Son, and Spirit.

It's a good place also to begin furthering the process of learning to live in sweet harmony with others of our sinning race.

I've deliberately chosen to use the unusual expression, "begin furthering the process of learning." It's a learning process that should be going on most positively every day of our lives. And, if we are born again children of God by faith, we aren't just beginning the process now, we're taking a new step of increased commitment to that process and the God of that process.

Our Delightful God Does It

What a delight to be learning to live in joyous harmony with God and man.

This is a harmony that exists, not because of perfection on our part or that of others.

It's a harmony that exists because of the perfections of our God. He perfectly understands our inadequacies, our incompetence, our failure, our sins, and our sense of guilt. He not only knows and understands them, He accepts us in spite of them. He accepts us in His Son, and through the sacrifice of His blood, His finished work on our behalf.

He loves us just as though we were as perfect as He. Because of His perfections, He can do this without lessening His recognition of our shortcomings, without reducing His efforts to make us more like Him.

It's a harmony that exists and grows

because Christ lives within us in dynamic life, working always to do us good.

Die To Live And Love In Harmony

It's a harmony that thrives as we learn to die to our own desires and live in the increasingly sacrificial love, caring, and giving that is the opposite of the egocentric selfishness that destroys our relationship with God and man.

Paul learned to maintain this harmony in spite of his weaknesses and those of his children in the Lord. See II Corinthians 12.

An Absolute Trust

Paul went so far as to trust God implicitly with all the nastinesses of life. Incredibly, he was able honestly to say,

*I take pleasure in infirmities,
in reproaches, in necessities,
in persecutions, in distresses
for Christ's sake:
for when I am weak,
then am I strong.
-II Corinthians 12:10*

This leaves no room for anger, hatred, and bearing grudges against those, even brothers and sisters in Christ, who we see as the perpetrators of the persecution, the designers of our distress.

God had told him that he **needed** a thorn in the flesh to keep him from being puffed up with pride. Instead of rebelling and losing his harmony with God and man, Paul said, "If you can

use that difficulty to keep me in line and do me and others good, I'll delight in all the other difficulties you send my way knowing they'll do me nothing but good."

Yes, we truly can trust God in all things and for all things good and all things truly needful.

This trust, when accompanied by quiet waiting on God, produces a peace and rest of heart, mind, and spirit that leads to harmony of spirit with God and frequently to a surprising degree of harmony with others.



*Please write to us
and request extra copies for distribution.*

*"Proclaiming Christ Jesus All-Sufficient Always
In All Things to All Men Everywhere"
Transformed Living Messages by Pastor Marr*

ChristLife

PO Box 1033, Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Ph: (716) 622-7320

E-mail: Christlife@Christ-like.net

Visit us at www.Christ-like.net

Living in Sweet



HARMONY

By Pastor Ron Marr