

pleasant ones. But when we're running on a tight schedule, I feel that Marge tends to "push" slower cars in our lane—something that might elicit a response from me like, "Don't you think we're a little close here?" To which she is likely to answer, "Well, why don't they just keep up with traffic!"

Now, a totally unbiased observer might see very little difference between our tailgating and that of those who tailgate us—seeing in us an illustration of the old metaphor of "the pot calling the kettle black." One thing it certainly pictures for those of us who claim to be followers of Christ is the fact that *most of us desire mercy for ourselves and justice for everyone else*. And in that more significant truth I confess my own guilt.

Those of us who call ourselves disciples of Jesus ought to be so overwhelmed by the grace He has given us that we become eager to extend grace of our own to all those who touch our lives. We need to fight back the urge to want to mete out justice to everyone who offends—especially when they offend us—instead of extending mercy to them. That will become easier if we adopt the attitude the apostle Paul recommended to the Christians in Philippi: Humbly "consider others better than yourselves" (Philippians 12:3).

In reality, this is just another way to follow the Golden Rule: "In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you" (Matthew 7:12). —DO

## REFLECTION

- When I look at others, do I usually consider how much better I am than they are, or do I look at them and commend the ways they surpass me?
- Am I tempted to think that admiring others will hurt my own "self-image"?

**Better a mercy giver than a "hanging judge."**

# Central Mountains Baptist Church

## JANUARY 28, 2018

### Give 'em Justice or Mercy?

The person I commute to work with, one who is very dear to me, is an excellent driver. Most of the time I relax when she's behind the wheel. She (well, okay, it's my wife Marge) is quick and perceptive and is better than I am in assessing traffic situations well ahead of us. Because she's a good driver, she's also quick to spot—and sometimes critique—bad drivers!

We both dislike tailgaters, and our thoughts about their bad driving are not



# Insights for Living Self Esteem



## Self Esteem



**(2 Peter 1:3)** "... given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, ..."

Philippians 2:3-4 tells us that there are two ways to live:

**1. In the \_\_\_\_\_, verse 3a**

◆ **Selfish \_\_\_\_\_,**  
**(Galatians 5:20)** "idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,"

**(James 3:16)** "For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there."

◆ **C \_\_\_\_\_,**

**(Jeremiah 9:24)** "But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD."

**(1 Corinthians 1:31)** "... He who glories, let him glory in the LORD. ..."

**(Jeremiah 17:9-10)** "'The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?'"

**[10]** I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, ..."

**(Hebrews 9:14)** "how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"



#1 Doesn't the Bible tell us to \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves?

**(Luke 10:27)** "... 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'"

#2 But don't we need \_\_\_\_\_ so that we can do things? 4:13

#3 If we don't have \_\_\_\_\_ won't we become depressed and give up?

**(Ephesians 1:3-8)** "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, {4} just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, {5} having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, {6} to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved. {7} In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace {8} which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,"

**2. In the \_\_\_\_\_, verses 3b-4**

◆ \_\_\_\_\_ of mind,

◆ E \_\_\_\_\_,

◆ Look \_\_\_\_\_,

