

Characteristics of Self-Sacrificing, God Glorifying Christians
Nehemiah 5:14-19

What characteristics does Nehemiah reveal might be included in the lives of self-sacrificing, God glorifying Christians?

1. God glorifying Christians **care** enough to get personally involved in the well-being of others
 - a. Nehemiah
 - i. The burden for Jerusalem
 - ii. The correction between the rich and poor
 - iii. The concern for taxing the people beyond their ability to bear
 - b. NT Instructions
 - i. **Luke 10:25-37 Parable of the Good Samaritan**
 - ii. **1 Corinthians 12:25-26 (ESV)** ²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.
2. God glorifying Christians are **considerate** of others, giving their needs the greater concern.
 - a. Nehemiah
 - b. **Philippians 2:3 (ESV)** ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.
 - i. Explore the needs around you (identify)
 - ii. Analyze your ability to help against faith's desire to help
 - iii. Do what God gives you the grace to do.
3. God glorifying Christians manifest **compassion** as they engage with the needs of others.
 - a. **1 Peter 3:8 (ESV)** ⁸ Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.
 - b. Compassion is the open door through which mercy journeys from one heart to another.
 - i. **Spiritual Need - Matthew 9:36-38 (ESV)** ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."
 - ii. **Physical Need - Matthew 15:32 (ESV)** ³² Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion on the crowd because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. And I am unwilling to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way."