

Mothers are all about **others**.

Romans 12 describes the transformed life – **Romans 12:1-2, 9-21**

***Romans 12:9** - Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in love. **Honor one another above yourselves**.....*

“The church is the only organization that exists for the benefit of non-members.”

Jesus lived his life for others. **Philippians 2:5-6**

Some believers can justify a righteous anger toward Government restrictions. They believe we can practice civil disobedience – See **Acts 5:29**.

Others believe we must respect our governing officials – **Romans 13:1**. Even the Emperor Nero.

Then Paul reminds the church to not be a stumbling block for the weak. **Romans 14:15-20, 1 Corinthians 9:20 -22**.

Paul states how he has chosen to lay down his rights to win the weaker.

A church sign proposes that a Christ-like love would mean remaining home. Do you agree or disagree?

Our varied responses may depend upon our spiritual gifting or our leadership function as an Apostle, Prophet, Pastor, Evangelist or Teacher.

Jesus operated under all **five leadership functions**. A healthy church should include all five as well.

While Jesus **confronted** the Pharisees throughout **Matthew 23**, he also revealed his **heart motive** of love in **Matthew 23:37** for them.

*Love is the common denominator regardless of gifting or leadership function. Without love, how will our message be received? **1 Corinthians 13:1***

Q: How are we to respond to our culture and government?

Some Christians have chosen to

- Retreat
- Confront
- Flow with the changes.

Kristen Deede Johnson proposes that we respond as trees do.... They exist solely for the benefit of others. (shade, fruit, oxygen). Trees are givers.

The transformed life means “Others before self.”

Jesus lived and taught it.

Paul lived and taught it.

Mothers live and teach it.