

BULLETIN REFLECTION by Father Rody
FEB 20, 2022, 7TH SUN YR C...LK 6, 27-38

32 *For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them.*

33 *And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same.*

My favorite English dictum during my elementary years which I love to recite is *'good better best, make your good better and your better best.'* Later on in my seminary life, our formators (priests) would always say, *'Don't be contented with what you have...never entertain the thought of mediocrity nor minimalistic mentality...always go for the top.'*

This kind of concept would be firmed up later as I go through my theological studies...

(Mankind offering something to God)...Cain and Abel offered something to Yahweh and Yahweh favored that of Abel (**Gen 4, 4**)...why...because Abel offered **the best**.

(God offering mankind a gift)...**Jn 1, 14** 'And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us...' **the best gift** that mankind has ever received from God.

(Man offering something to his fellow man)...**Jn 15, 13** 'No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.' **The best gift** that an individual can give to his fellow ones.

From the 3 citations, where is the term 'LEAST'?

In the end, God is telling us...'mankind could you please exert extra effort, you are so spoiled...you want the best but you do not want to give the best.'

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time by Father Dave – The readings today are linked together by one main theme: the power of Christian love, when exercised in unconditional forgiveness by the believing community of forgiven sinners. The readings also instruct us about our right and wrong choices. The right choices lead us to God, and the wrong ones break our relationship with Him and with one another.

The first reading from the Old Testament Book of Samuel shows us how David made the right choice, respecting God's anointed king by forgiving his offenses, while Saul continued to make the wrong choices, perpetuating his misery with his revenge. In the Responsorial Psalm, Ps 103, the Psalmist reminds us of the mercy of God and His compassion that we should practice. As we continue reading Paul's letter to the Corinthian Church, St. Paul tells us how the "First Adam" made a wrong choice of disobedience, bringing death into the world, whereas Jesus, the "Second Adam," made the correct choice of fulfilling his Father's saving plan. [Today's Gospel \(Luke 6:27-38\)](#) gives us Jesus' revolutionary moral teaching about correct choices in our human relationships, placing special emphasis on the golden rule, "Do to others as you would have them do to you." This golden rule is amplified by a string of particular commands: "Love your enemies...Do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you and pray for those who maltreat you." For Jesus, love is a fundamental attitude that seeks another's good. Jesus orders us to love our enemies and to be merciful as God our Father is merciful. Jesus challenges us to do for others what God has done for us. "Be compassionate, as your Father is compassionate." He concludes by instructing us to stop judging and start forgiving.

We need to practice grace-filled behavior: What makes Christianity distinct from any other religion is the quality known as grace; that is., God's own life working in us, so that we are able to treat others, not as they deserve, but with love, kindness and mercy. God is good to the unjust as well as to the just. Therefore, our love for others, even those who are ungrateful and selfish towards us, must be marked by the same kindness and mercy which God has shown to us. His love conquers our hurts, fears, prejudices and grief. Only the cross of Jesus Christ can free us from the tyranny of malice, hatred, revenge, and resentment, and give us the courage to return good for evil.

We need to pray for the strength to forgive. At every Mass we pray the "Our Father", asking God to forgive us as we forgive others. Our challenge is to overcome our natural inclination to hate family members, co-workers, neighbors etc. who offend us. To meet that challenge, we need to ask God for the strength to forgive each other. We must forgive, because only forgiveness truly heals us. If we remember how God has forgiven us, it will help us forgive others. Let us start forgiving right now by curbing the sharp tongue of criticism, suppressing the revenge instinct and tolerating the irritating behavior of a neighbor.