

Study Lesson Number 42:

THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD (continued from Sunday July 31, 1988)

What must we do to love God, our neighbor, and ourselves?

To love God, our neighbor, and ourselves we must keep the commandments of God and of the Church, and perform the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

The spiritual and corporal works of mercy are acts of love which we show to Christ in the members of His Mystical Body. Whatever we do for a member of the Body of Christ, we do for Christ. And we can help non-Catholics to become members of Christ's Body by the love we show toward them.

As Our Lord Himself says, "As long as you did it for one of these, the least of My Brethren, you did to for me."

St. Matthew's Gospel

Which are the chief corporal works of mercy?

The chief corporal works of mercy are seven:

1. To feed the hungry
2. To give drink to the thirsty.
3. To clothe the naked
4. To visit the imprisoned
5. To shelter the homeless
6. To visit the sick
7. To bury the dead

CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY - - Acts of love which come from the HEART to help our neighbor in his bodily need.

Which are the chief spiritual works of mercy?

The chief spiritual works of mercy are seven:

1. To admonish the sinner
2. To instruct the ignorant
3. To counsel the doubtful
4. To comfort the sorrowful
5. To bear wrongs patiently
6. To forgive all injuries
7. To pray for the living and the dead.

SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY - - Acts of love toward our neighbor to help him in the needs of his soul. And since the soul is far more important than the body, the spiritual works of mercy are far more important than the corporal works of mercy.