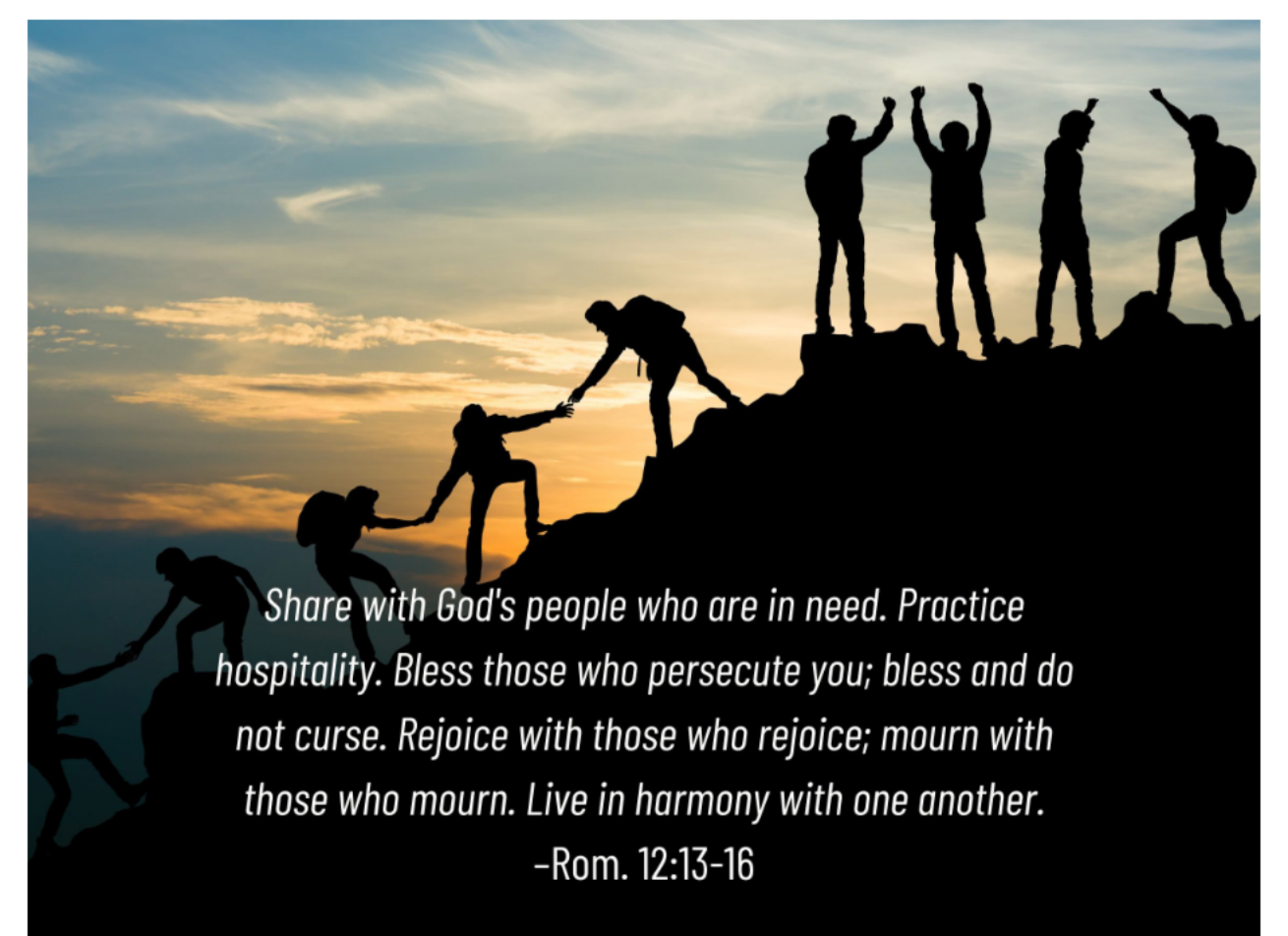




Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another.

-Rom. 12:13-16

DEVOTION:

Hillel the Elder, a famous Jewish religious leader who lived in the time of King Herod, wrote, "If I am not for myself, then who will be for me?"

The first meaning of this is that we have to learn to take ourselves more seriously. If we cannot be positive about ourselves, who will be?

We have to learn to respect who we are.

The second meaning is less positive. No one is for me or cares for me, and I have to care for myself. This should never be the case in the community of believers. In the church we should consider other people (see Phil. 2:3-4; Rom. 12:10).

There we look after the weak, the sinner and saint, the poor and the helpless, the widow and orphan, those who have lost all hope, because we love each other (see Rom. 12:10, 16).

When people really care, we do not only look after our own interests – we have the energy and ability to care for others. Let us not only dream about such a community. Let us make it a reality.