

What Is the Minimum Required of Me?

Introduction:

1. [C] Have you ever wondered or heard it asked, "What is the minimum required of me by the Lord?" We could ask, "Why would someone ask such a question?" Typically it is asked by those who want to excuse themselves of duty or to justify their lack of activity.
2. However, the Bible gives direct answers about this. Let's observe the testimony of three.

Discussion:

I. [C] Micah

- A. When some wanted to paint the Lord as an overbearing God with unreachable expectations, Micah responded in 6:8, "He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?"
- B. [C] What does God expect of His people?
 1. *Do what is just.* Abraham is mentioned as commanding his children to righteousness and justice (Gen. 18:19). Justice is something to be done in righteousness. Jesus taught, "Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment" (Jn. 7:24). *We should never praise ourselves for what we think is good and we should never condemn God for what we think is evil!*
 2. [cl] *Love what is merciful.* Loving mercy is what the Lord demonstrate in the parable of the unforgiving servant (see Matt. 18:21-27). He had compassion and forgave his debt. Yet that forgiven servant did not love mercy as he refused to extend it to another (Matt. 18:28-30). This also shows that he didn't love what was just because what was done to him was not extended to another. Do I love mercy? Do I want forgiven by God and then do I extend that forgiveness to others or do I harbor grudges and am unwilling to let it go?
 3. [cl] *Walk humbly or lowly with Him.* Luke 17:10, "So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.'" Not only recognizing that we are servants, but unprofitable servants!
- C. What does this mean?
 1. This means we must know what is just and merciful and know our place with God.
 2. James wrote in 4:6, "But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: 'God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.'"
 3. He then told disciples to submit to God and resist the devil (Jas. 4:7).
 4. He then commanded them to draw near to God, cleanse their hands and purify their hearts so that they would not be double-minded (Jas. 4:8). Perhaps at the crux of our question is that of a double mind where one wants to continue to serve two masters. Jesus said that is an impossible position to be in (Matt. 6:24).
 5. [C] Does the question resemble and reflect the traits of doing justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly before God? Perhaps the key to Micah's teaching in 6:8 is "He has shown you."
 - a) [cl] More than any other dispensation of time God has shown us what is good through Christ (1 Jn. 2:6; Jn. 13:15; 1 Pet. 2:21). [cl] The word in 1 Peter 2:21, *hupogrammos* (hoop-og-ram-mos') comes from two words that mean "under" and "graph." It is like the giving of the

alphabet where the student learns to write by tracing over the marks of the letter. The Lord's example is that written graph where we are to learn to trace our lives over it.

II. [C] PAUL

- A. "But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life" (Rom. 6:22).
- B. Paul answers the question by addressing our duty to God as a slave. What slave would ask his master, "*What is the minimum required of me to make you happy, to keep you off my back?*"
- C. [C] In Romans, Paul taught that as good of a slave as we were to sin, we should be to God for righteousness. "I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For **just as you presented** your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, **so now present** your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness" (Rom. 6:19).
 1. As you were to one master, so now present your members to your new master. How much more should we love to serve God, a compassionate and loving master over our former master of sin, a tyrant and death bringer?
 2. [C] "But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, **you became slaves of righteousness**" (Rom. 6:17, 18). Since we became slaves of righteousness, we should be impressed with how much we can do, not how little.

III. [C] JESUS

- A. Jesus was asked by a scribe what was the *first or principal* commandment of all in Mark 12:28. The Lord answered, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength'" (see Mk. 12:29, 30). After inserting Moses, Jesus asserted, "This is the first commandment."
- B. So the very first commandment that a disciple should learn is to be wholeheartedly in love with God and fully committing his faculties to God's will and pleasure.
 1. [C] Moses also wrote, "And now, Israel, **what does the LORD your God require of you**, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God **with all your heart and with all your soul**" (Deut. 10:12).
 2. What then is the minimal service that the Lord requires of me? The heart or seat of my affection should be wholly given to Him. My soul or life should be tied up in Him. My meditation should always be on Him. My strength should be given to Him. If I *love* the Lord with all my heart and soul (Deut. 6:5), I will *serve* the Lord with all my heart and soul (Deut. 10:12).

Conclusion:

1. The questions of how much should I give and how often should I attend the services of the Lord become easy to determine when we *humble* ourselves before God, seek to *serve Him as a slave*, and *love Him with our whole heart, soul, strength and mind*.
2. [C] Jesus identified the second commandment in Mark 12:31, as: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
3. [C, C] A *second* reason for my faithful attendance in every service. *Not only should I attend and participate because of my devoted love to God, but also through my consideration of others (see Heb. 10:25; 1 Cor. 15:58).*

What is the Minimum?

Steven J. Wallace

Hear – 1 Cor. 14:21 In the law it is written: "With *men of* other tongues and other lips I will speak to this people; And yet, for all that, they will not hear Me," says the Lord.

Believe – John 5:46 "For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me.

Repent – Acts 17:30

Confess – Matt. 10:32 "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.

Baptism – Acts 2:38