

# What's Best Next

## How the Gospel Transforms the Way You Get Things Done

by Matt Perman

### *Put Others First: Love as the Guiding Principle for All of Life (Chapter 6)*

1. **Have real goodwill toward the other person.** Motives count. See Philippians 1:15-16.
2. **Put the other person first.** See Matthew 20:26-28, Romans 15:1-3, and Philippians 2:3-4.
3. **Be eager in meeting the needs of others, not begrudging and reluctant.** Zeal for good works. See Titus 2:14.
4. **Be proactive, not reactive, in doing good.**
  - a. "Love your neighbor as yourself." We are proactive in self-care (or at least we should be) so we should also be proactive in others-care.
  - b. Charles Spurgeon puts it this way: "Let us *be on the watch* for opportunities of usefulness; let us go about the world with our ears and our eyes open, ready to avail ourselves of every occasion for doing good; let us not be content till we are useful, but make this the main design and ambition of our lives."
  - c. Jonathan Edwards says this: "A charitable person, whose heart disposes him to bounty and liberality, will be *quick-sighted* to discern the needs of others."
  - d. William Wilberforce says: "Are we acute to discern and forward to embrace any fair opportunity of promoting the interest of another?"
5. **Avoid a self-protective mindset and *take pains* to do good for others.** See Matthew 5:42 and Luke 6:32-36.
6. **Be creative and competent in doing good, not lazy and shoddy.**

### Three Characteristics of Gospel-Driven Christians (p. 93)

1. Known by their love, and *also* sound in theology. Both/and, not either/or.
2. Engaged in their communities and workplaces and working for the good of others, not retreating to the hills to grow wheat until Jesus comes.
3. Not afraid of culture, but not compromising the gospel either. The gospel is unchanging, but it does need to be contextualized.

### Networking: Making Others Successful (p. 96)

- Keith Ferrazzi in *Never Eat Alone*: "I learned that *real* networking was about finding ways to make *other* people more successful. It was about working hard to *give* more than you get."
- This is the economy of the Kingdom, which is drastically different than the economy of the cosmos (the dark and depraved world). We have great opportunity to shine like stars in our dark and depraved world by truly networking to build others up!