WHAT DO YE MORE THAN OTHERS?
(Matthew 5:43-48)

I. The Christian must do more.
A. Just by the way the question is worded, we should see that more is expected of the Christian.
B. Jesus taught that our religion is worth little if it does not make us better than worldly people.
   1. We are raised up out of the baptismal waters a different person spiritually speaking (Romans 6:3-4).
   2. Things are new to one who is born again (2 Corinthians 5:17).
   3. The Christian was once in darkness but now in light, and the two are easily distinguished from one another (Ephesians 5:8).
   4. We are to be different than the world (Romans 12:2).
C. Even the righteousness of the super-religious Pharisees was not acceptable to Jesus (Matthew 5:20).
D. It is sad that many who claim to be New Testament Christians give no more, study no more, work no more, attend no more and pray no more than those in denominationalism.
E. What are we doing more than these?

II. The Christian can’t get mired.
A. Too many Christians are mired in mediocrity or in being average.
B. Too many are satisfied doing just enough to get by.
C. “Thou shalt not kill” meets the demands of average, but Jesus condemned anger, the seed of murder (Matthew 5:21-22).
   1. 1 John 3:15.
   2. 1 John 4:20.
D. The world is fine with the average of “an eye for an eye,” but Jesus demands more (Matthew 5:39).
E. The world is fine with the average of “Do not steal,” but you can take as many shortcuts as you want to.
   1. Take long lunches or long breaks.
   2. Do as little work as you can to get by.
F. The world’s average is don’t get drunk, but you can get right up to the point of being drunk and be okay.
   1. Paul said not to begin the process (Ephesians 5:18).
   2. Paul said to abstain from all appearance of evil (1 Thessalonians 5:22).
G. The world’s average is be selfish as long as you don’t hurt someone but God doesn’t view it that way (Philippians 2:4).
H. The world’s average says that you can fulfill your lusts as long as you are safe, but God says otherwise (1 Corinthians 6:18).
I. The world's average says that one church is good as another but Jesus taught otherwise (Matthew 15:9, 13).

III. The Christian must follow the Master.
A. Jesus is the Christian's example, not anyone in this world.
B. We are to follow in His steps (1 Peter 2:21).
C. Jesus is the only way to get to the Father (John 14:6).
D. We plumb the depths of foolishness when we compare ourselves to others.
   1. We aren’t to compare ourselves even to other members of the church (2 Corinthians 10:12).
   2. They are not our standard.
E. It is extreme foolishness to compare ourselves to non-Christians.
   1. We are called to live holier lives than them.
   2. There is no standard in comparing a Christian with a non-Christian because one is in Christ and one is not.
F. Jesus set the example in how to live with others, even those who hate us and persecute us (Matthew 5:44 & Luke 23:34).

Sermon idea and some material from Leroy Brownlow’s “Great Questions From The New Testament.”