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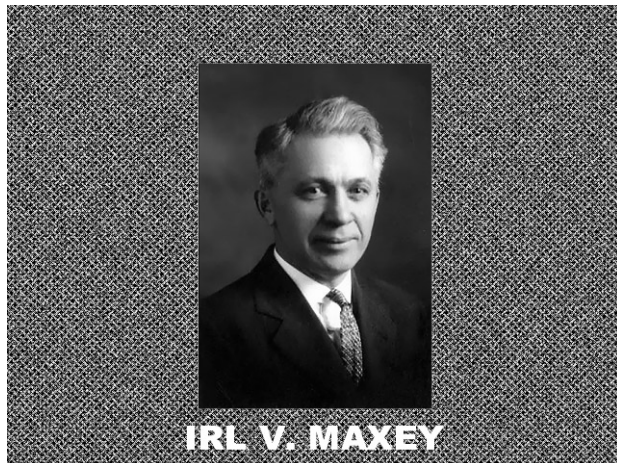
**BEING FIT TO LIVE AMONG OTHERS  
A Sermon By Irl V. Maxey**

**Digitized and Edited  
By Duane V. Maxey**

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**Digital Edition 01/27/06  
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## **INTRODUCTION TO THIS FILE**

**At the end thereof, papa notes that this sermon was written on November 13, 1913 in Imbler, Oregon. This was another one of papa's sermons without a title. I have chosen the above title as appropriate for the subject. The Scripture Readings that papa listed along with the text are a bit lengthy. I have placed in all caps two portions of these scriptures that I think he may have thought tied these scriptures to his text and subject. -- Duane V. Maxey, (Ahwatukee) Phoenix, Arizona, January 27, 2006.**

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## **SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

**Romans 13:7-14 -- "RENDER THEREFORE TO ALL THEIR DUES: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour. Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.**

**1 Corinthian 13: 1 -- "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, DOTH NOT BEHAVE ITSELF UNSEEMLY, SEEKETH NOT HER OWN, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.**

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**You will find our text in the 14th chapter of Romans and the 7th verse.**

**SERMON TEXT: -- Romans 14:7 -- "For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself."**

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**As Ira Landreth says, every man should be fit to live -- fit to live with, fit to die, and fit to live forever. So I must conclude living is very important. There is only**

one way we can train a child, and that is to be very careful with the child. One way to reach any end -- and that is to be very careful of the beginning. So, I conclude that if we ever live in heaven we must live here on earth. Oh, here is the place to live.

We do not know much of the life beyond, only as we measure it through our experiences here. To us who must endure so much labor and heartache, we think of rest beyond. We who have lived and enjoyed a home of kindness and then suffered the loss of loved ones think of an unbroken family circle in heaven.

Life here measures our enjoyment beyond. Some seem to feel that if we could only get our society rearranged so that I could have food, clothing, and shelter sufficient (without all that bitterness), then we would be living. I will disparage this idea, for I believe this would be the results of living, but not living.

As Roberts says, Let us ask the Romans, what is life to you? They answer: Life to us is to have a good time. Life is pleasure. Napoleon, what is life to you? Oh, life to me is power -- empire. If I can conquer armies, I am happy. Oh you Greeks, what is life to you? Life to us is thought. If I can investigate things and think over them, I am happy. Paul, what is life to you? Oh, for me to live is Christ, and no man is fit to live till he has found Christ.

In reality, he does not live till Christ lives within him, and before that he is dead while he liveth. Oh Listen! Before there can be life there must be Christ! In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. Oh, live! live! live! a life of power, for none of us liveth to himself.

We no have huge guns that will shot 16 miles and pierce an eight-inch metal plate. Oh, let us live till our lives will shoot down through coming ages and pierce the darkness of error and be a mighty blaze of holy truth!

Oh yes, we do not and we cannot live to ourselves. The age of individualism has passed. If you could live on some lonely island like Alexander Selkirk, then you could controvert the statement of the Scripture. But, such is not the case, nor does God intend that you should live alone.

Some think they can withdraw from society and shut out the responsibility of collective association. But with such reclusive thoughts and behavior they have lost, and have also affected everyone in society. Some think they can cease to be conformed on civic things, will not take interest in political things, and will not vote. Or, some will say, Ah well, the devil and the world have those things anyway. Let them have them. I won't go to the poles.

Ah, traitor to the trust God has given you! Poor, deluded soul! You can't shirk responsibility, for none of us liveth unto himself. There is but one inevitable: You must, and you will, live among other people, and be in part responsible for the

whole success or failure of society. So, you must be fit to live with men. You have no right personally to practice anything in your life that is an offense to anybody else -- for, hence it must be an offense to society.

Men often prate about personal liberty. There is no such thing. My liberty (so-called) is judged of another man's conscience. God Almighty has married you to society, and do not think that what God has joined together men can put asunder. The only personal liberty men have is freedom from slavery, or freedom from sin that makes you fit to live in society.

Surely, one with tobacco juice running out of his mouth is an offense to somebody. Take that tobacco out of your mouth and throw it away, and never let anybody see you with it again. Surely, to be fit to live in society is every reason why you should be free from tobacco, whiskey, or anything that unfits us to live with people.

Then we are a member of a home somewhere, and I am certain one should be a worthy member of that home. If we are a father or a mother we should be worthy of our home and children. Some men are so lustful they are unfit to live with a decent woman, or they are so vulgar they should never live with children. Some women are so vain that they are not worthy of a good husband. Oh, father, mother, brother or sister! You should never live so as to be an offense to each other. You should be fit to live with and Christ will make you that way.

Then we should always remember that as members of society in a great nation, we should be fit to live together. In all our national practice we should never permit anything that would be an offense to anyone, nor move from the standard of living fully for Christ ourselves and permitting others to do the same.

Slavery and oppression should never exist. Worthy are the men who gave their lives to stamp out African Slavery from our land. We were not fit to live with while enslaving one of God's creation. But listen -- no more are we fit to live with while we sell 100,000 of our bright, intelligent boys every year to become slaves to drink -- for the pretense of profit.

Oh, listen -- neither are we fit to live with while allowing the bodies and souls of thousands of girls every year to be prostituted for the beastly passions of a few so-called men -- even though it brings dollars into a city treasury.

Oh, God have mercy on us! Neither are we fit to live together while we enslave our brethren for profit. God never intended that one should enslave his life for the profit of somebody else -- profit to one who lives in riches and splendor every day, and his slave in poverty -- profit on one side and horrible loss on the other. One lives in a mansion, and the other in a hovel.

Oh listen -- there are thousands of children today who are not able to go to school because they must labor in factories to make a living. Why? Because some rich man enslaves their father by not paying him enough to support the family without his child helping. Oh, surely we should not allow this. We can't live to ourselves.

Where is thy patriotism? African slavery is gone, but Oh, God have mercy -- what is more horrible: thousands are in slavery to strong drink. Thousands of beautiful girls are born every year who die in white slavery. Thousands of children are enslaved in factories along beside their fathers while their employers revel in wealth and splendor.

Slavery! Slavery! Oh, we are not fit to live with our brother while we enslave him. Oh listen -- we must not live from the profits of the of other's blood. Oh, Christ must be in your soul if you are fit to live, and He must be in your actions before you are fit to live with.

Oh Christian, open thou thine eyes! Hear the clanking of the chains of oppression and let thy brother go free! For that purpose Jesus came. Do as thy Master bids you. Truly that enslaved person must have personal liberty and nothing prevent him from having soul liberty. Your so-called personal liberty has enslaved people in drink -- enslaved men and their children in factories, enslaved beautiful girls in prostitution.

Away with such personal liberty! 'Tis liberty of the devil!

Let every man have liberty of soul. God intended for it to be just as easy as possible for men to get to heaven. Make it easy for one to live as the other. When Christ is in the soul, and this is acted out in every life, oppression and slavery must cease -- living and letting live.

The kingdom of Christ is come on earth, and this shall be swallowed up in heaven. "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3).

"Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour. In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the Lord. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not. He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved" (Psalm 15:1-5).

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**THE END OF THIS SERMON**