

**Excerpts from "A Model of Christian Charity" (A Sermon Delivered on July 2nd, 1630, by John Winthrop Aboard the *Arbella*, traveling to the Massachusetts Bay Colony)**

- (A) There are two rules whereby we are to walk one towards another: Justice and Mercy...
- (B) Wee must beare one anothers burthens. We must not looke onely on our owne things, but allsoe on the things of our brethren...
- (C) Now if the Lord shall please to heare us, and bring us in peace to the place we desire, then hath hee ratified this covenant and sealed our Commission... but if wee shall neglect the observation of {his wishes}... the Lord will surely breake out in wrathe against us; be revenged of such a {sinful} people and make us knowe the price of the breache of such a covenant.
- (D) Now the onely way to avoyde this shipwracke, and to provide for our posterity, is to followe the counsell of Micah, to doe justly, to love mercy, to walk humbly with our God. For this end, wee must be knitt together, in this worke, as one man. Wee must entertaine each other in brotherly affection. Wee must be willing to abridge ourselves of our superfluities, for the supply of other's necessities. Wee must uphold a familiar commerce together in all meekeness, gentlenes, patience and liberality. Wee must delight in eache other; make other's conditions our oune; rejoyce together, mourne together, labour and suffer together, allwayes haueing before our eyes our commission and community in the worke, as members of the same body. Soe shall wee keepe the unitie of the spirit in the bond of peace.
- (E) For wee must consider that wee shall be as a citty upon a hill. The eies of all people are uppon us. Soe that if wee shall deale falsely with our God in this worke wee have undertaken, and soe cause him to withdrawe his present help from us, wee shall be made a story and a by-word through the world. Wee shall open the mouthes of enemies to speake evill of the wayes of God, and all professors for God's sake. Wee shall shame the faces of many of God's worthy servants, and cause theire prayers to be turned into curses upon us till wee be consumed out of the good land whither wee are a going.

---

**Paraphrase [NOTE: *this is the same excerpt in modernized English*]:**

- (A) There are two rules by which God commands us to live - justice and mercy (which may seem to be opposites, but which must work together for good)...
- (B) We must bear one another's burdens. We must look after not only what's good for us, but what's good for our neighbors.
- (C) If God chooses to listen to us and gets us to the New World, He's going to expect us to live by these principles [including those discussed in previous paragraphs which aren't all included in these excerpts]. If we don't, we're breaking our covenant ["agreement"] with God, and He will be angry with us and teach us what happens to people who break their agreements with Him...
- (D) The only way to avoid this shipwreck is to follow the advice of Micah in the Bible - "to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God." That means we have to work together like one person. We must be willing to let the little stuff go and be patient and giving with one another. We must make others' happiness our happiness, and others' suffering our suffering. Our focus should always be the unity of the community.
- (E) We must realize that we'll be like a city on a hill. Everyone will be watching us. If we betray our God in this New World and He lets us fail, we'll be mocked and despised by everyone around the world. We'll be giving other people an excuse to criticize God and Christians everywhere. We'll bring shame upon everyone who believes, and they'll probably turn against us as a result. On top of everything else, our efforts here in the New World will have come to nothing.

## Excerpts from “A Model of Christian Charity”

**Historical Context:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

**Intended Audience:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

**Point of View:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

**Purpose:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

**Other Relevant Information / Observations:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---