

From Compassion to Forgiveness

Colossians 3:8-15

Matt. 5:43-48

- “You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? 48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”

Matt. 22:34-39

- “But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. 35 Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, 36 Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law? 37 Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Col. 3:8-15

- “But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all. 12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.”

Compassion

- Compassion reflects the deepest of human feelings.
- Compassion - agapao: “Love, affection, benevolence; special charity, dear love” (Strong's)

Compassion

- Jesus was moved with compassion on the multitudes
 - Matt. 9:36 - “But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.”
 - Matt. 14:14 - “And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.”

Compassion

- He is presently moved with our condition
 - Heb. 4:15 - “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”

Compassion

- Children of God must have deep compassion for each other
 - 1Peter 3:8 - “Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous”
- In physical and material circumstances
 - 1John 3:17 - “But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?”

Compassion

- In spiritual needs
 - Gal. 6:1-2 - “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”
 - Rom. 15:1 - “We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves.”

Compassion

- Under burdens, hardship or strife in the congregation
 - 1Thes. 5:11, 14 - “Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing... 14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the faint hearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.”

Compassion

- Some professed Christians tend to be abrupt, abrasive, and unfeeling. A lack of open compassion proves that they are not really converted.
 - 1Cor. 13:7 - “Bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

Kindness

- A Christian is a kind person who manifests a kind spirit.
- Kindness - chrestotes - “Usefulness morally, excellence in character or demeanor; gentleness, goodness, kindness” (Strong's)

Kindness

- Kindness is expected in Christians
 - Eph. 4:32 - “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.”
- It is a part of the love that characterizes Christians
 - 1Cor. 13:4 - “Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up”

Kindness

- Kindness is part of the fruit of the Spirit
 - Gal. 5:22 - “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness...”
- It is part of the new man in Christ
 - Col. 3:12 - “Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering”
- Kindness is to be added to our faith
 - 2Peter 1:7 - “...to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.”

Kindness

- This quality is needed:
 - In business meetings when there is a difference of opinion.
 - In Bible classes when there is a difference of understanding.
 - In preaching in avoiding unkind, bitter remarks and feelings to take over the message.
 - In personal comments to and about one another, face-to-face and in the presence of others, or about another person

Forgiveness

- This attitude is a must for every Christian who wishes to be forgiven himself.
- Forgiveness - charizomai: “To grant as a favor gratuitously, in kindness to pardon or rescue; deliver, freely forgive, give, or grant” (Strong's)

Forgiveness

- Eph. 4:32 - “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.”
- Col. 3:13 - “Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.”
- Matt. 6:12-15 - “And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. 13 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. 14 For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

Forgiveness

- Jesus
 - Luke 23:34 - “Then Jesus said, Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do. And they divided His garments and cast lots.”
- Stephen
 - Acts 7:60 - “Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, Lord, do not charge them with this sin. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.”
- Paul
 - 2Tim. 4:16 - “At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them”

Forgiveness

- A forgiving spirit can prevent wrong feelings from developing.
- A forgiving spirit shows an appreciation for the forgiveness of sins the Christian enjoys through the sacrifice of Jesus.

Forgiveness

- Many are unforgiving because they have a selfish, inward view of life.
- They feel sorry for themselves most of the time.
- They are paranoid about what they think others are thinking or saying about them, imagining ugliness all around them
- They feed on hurt feelings and criticism of other people.

Forgiveness

- If one is going to be like Jesus, he must develop a forgiving spirit.
- Those who are truly Christians are compassionate, kind and forgiving persons