

# From Compassion to Forgiveness

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from Internet Sources)

## Introduction:

- A. Every follower of Jesus must be impressed with the attitudes and feelings toward others which He taught and lived.
  - 1. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus emphasized His desire to change humankind's attitudes to conform to His own - Matt. 5:43-48
  - 2. One cannot be a Christian without proper attitudes and conduct toward others - Matt. 22:34-39; Col. 3:8-15.
  - 3. The "new man" of Colossians 3 is continually developing in the likeness of the Lord.
- B. Three of the outstanding qualities and attitudes in this passage, exemplified by the Lord, are: compassion, kindness and forgiveness. Note how each one leads into the next

## I. COMPASSION

- A. Compassion reflects the deepest of human feelings.
  - 1. Compassion - agapao: "Love, affection, benevolence; special charity, dear love" (Strongs)
- B. The example of Jesus.
  - 1. He was moved with compassion on the multitudes - Matt. 9:36, 14:14
  - 2. He is presently moved with our condition - Heb. 4:15
- C. Children of God must have deep compassion for each other - 1Peter 3:8
  - 1. In physical and material circumstances - 1John 3:17
  - 2. In spiritual needs - Gal. 6:1-2; Rom. 15:1
  - 3. Under burdens, hardship or strife in the congregation - 1Thes. 5:11, 14
- D. Some professed Christians tend to be abrupt, abrasive, and unfeeling.
  - 1. A lack of open compassion proves that they are not really converted.
  - 2. 1Cor. 13:7

## II. KINDNESS

- A. A Christian is a kind person who manifests a kind spirit.
  - 1. Kindness - chrestotes - "Usefulness morally, excellence in character or demeanor; gentleness, goodness, kindness" (Strongs)
- B. Kindness is expected in Christians - Eph. 4:32
  - 1. It is a part of the love that characterizes Christians - 1Cor. 13:4
  - 2. Kindness is part of the fruit of the Spirit - Gal. 5:22
  - 3. It is part of the new man in Christ - Col. 3:12
  - 4. Kindness is to be added to our faith - 2Peter 1:7
- C. This quality is needed:
  - 1. In business meetings when there is a difference of opinion.
  - 2. In Bible classes when there is a difference of understanding.
  - 3. In preaching in avoiding unkind, bitter remarks and feelings to take over the message.

4. In personal comments to and about one another, face-to-face and in the presence of others, or about another person

### III. FORGIVENESS

- A. This attitude is a must for every Christian who wishes to be forgiven himself.
  1. Forgiveness - charizomai: "To grant as a favor gratuitously, in kindness to pardon or rescue; deliver, freely forgive, give, or grant" (Strong's)
  2. Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13; Matt. 6:12-15
- B. The attitude of forgiveness is plainly manifested by:
  1. Jesus - Luke 23:34
  2. Stephen - Acts 7:60
  3. Paul - 2Tim. 4:16
- C. It stands in stark contrast to grudges, "chips-on-the-shoulder," hatred, bitterness, revenge and other sinful attitudes.
  1. A forgiving spirit can prevent wrong feelings from developing.
  2. A forgiving spirit shows an appreciation for the forgiveness of sins the Christian enjoys through the sacrifice of Jesus.
- D. Consider the alternative to a forgiving spirit
  1. Many are unforgiving because they have a selfish, inward view of life.
  2. They feel sorry for themselves most of the time.
  3. They are paranoid about what they think others are thinking or saying about them, imagining ugliness all around them
  4. They feed on hurt feelings and criticism of other people.
- E. If one is going to be like Jesus, he must develop a forgiving spirit.

#### Conclusion:

- A. Do you feel and live compassion? Are you kind in your thoughts, words and actions? Do you have a forgiving spirit that is evident in your treatment of others?
- B. If the answer is no, I don't know what name you should be wearing, but it is certainly not the name of Jesus Christ.
- C. Those who are truly Christians are compassionate, kind and forgiving persons