

The Compassion of Christ

Lesson for Sunday, November 2, 2025

INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ We have been working our way through 2 Peter 1:5-7 where Peter answers the question, “What does it mean to be Godly?”
- ⇒ Peter lists 7 essential virtues that the Christian must give diligence to developing. Read the text and quickly define each virtue.
 - Virtue – a commitment to be **Christlike**
 - Knowledge – a commitment to lifetime **study** of God & His Word
 - Temperance – a commitment to mortifying the **flesh**
 - Patience – a commitment to **persevering**
 - Godliness – a commitment to **standing** for Christ and the things of Christ
 - Brotherly Kindness – a commitment to my **church** family
 - Charity – a commitment to serve the **spiritual** interests of others
- ⇒ The last 2 weeks we have organized these virtues into 3 core values:
 - A **commitment** to Christ – virtue and knowledge
 - A **courage** for Christ – temperance, patience and Godliness
 - A **compassion** like Christ – brotherly kindness and charity – this is today’s focus.
- ⇒ As we consider what it means to be compassionate, there is no better illustration than the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

BIBLE STUDY:

1. **Defining** Compassion

- a. Just as we discussed with courage last week, compassion is the **result** of the cultivation of each of the essential virtues.
 - i. We don’t just decide to be compassionate.
 - ii. When we are Godly and possess the essential virtues, we will be people characterized by compassion.
- b. Biblical compassion is both **tender** and **tough**.
 - i. Christians are often guilty of being either tender or tough and rarely possess the balance between the two.
 - ii. Paul describes this biblical balance in 1 Thessalonians 2. Paul is describing his personal ministry to this local church in verses 1-12 (don’t read).
 - 1. In verse 4, Paul makes it clear that their goal was not to please men, but to please God.
 - 2. In verse 7, Paul gives us a beautiful picture of a nursing mother caring for her baby. What are the words we think of with this picture?
 - 3. But in contrast, Paul reminds us of a good father who both exhorts, comforts and charges his children (vs. 11).
 - iii. Just as Paul described, Christian compassion contains both the tenderness of a mother and the exhortation of a father.
- c. We must also remember that in the specific context of Christian compassion, our intention is always to meet the genuine spiritual needs of others.

2. **Displaying** Compassion

- a. The perfect example of compassion is the Perfect Man, the Lord Jesus.
- b. Jesus had tender compassion on those who were in **need**.
 - i. Matthew 20:34 – Jesus had compassion on the blind
 - ii. Mark 1:41 – Jesus had compassion on the leper
 - iii. Luke 7:13 – Jesus had compassion on the broken-hearted
- c. Jesus had tender compassion on those who were **undeserving** according to the culture.

- i. John 4 – Jesus, a Jew, had compassion on a Samaritan woman
 - ii. Matthew 9:9-13 – Jesus was willing to spend time with those that much of the culture looked down upon
 - iii. Mark 5 – Jesus had compassion on a demon possessed man
- d. Jesus also showed tough compassion for others.
 - i. The religious leaders were always opposing Jesus. But Jesus is always spending time with them and confronting them and their wrong thinking.
 - ii. Many times, we see the disciples arguing among themselves or completely missing the point of one of Jesus's teachings. Jesus showed His compassion as He lovingly corrected and pointed them in the right direction.
- e. Brainstorm as a group:
 - i. Who do we know who are in need?
 - ii. Who does our culture look down upon?
 - iii. Who is wrong in their thinking and in need of a compassionate correction?
 - iv. How do we show them compassion? What are the challenges?
 - v. Who has God placed in your life that needs to see the compassion of Jesus? What can you do this week to be a Christian characterized by compassion?

CONCLUSION: It's Friend Day! Save time for this! It's the most compassionate thing you can do!

- ⇒ The greatest act of compassion is seen on the Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Christ – the perfect embodiment of the essential virtues – shed His blood on the cross so that we might be saved. Read John 3:16.
- ⇒ The message of the Gospel is tough. Jesus died for you.
 - You deserved to be on the cross. You are the sinner who needs saving.
 - That can be a difficult truth to accept. But Jesus, in His compassion, loves us enough to confront us with the truth.
- ⇒ The message of the Gospel is tender. Jesus died for you.
 - The greatest thing anyone can do is to give their lives so others may live.
 - That is what Jesus did for each of us. It's the greatest love story ever told – and it is true!
- ⇒ Offer to speak with anyone who has questions. Make sure to thank them for coming!