

The Power of Compassion

May 14, 2017

Compassion is the greatest motivator for changing another person's life.

1 John 3:18-19 (MSG) – **“My dear children, let's not just talk about love; let's practice real love. This is the only way we'll know we're living truly, living in God's reality.”**

- The sign that you are in a relationship with Jesus is if you love people.
- It's not about your gifts, it's not about your anointing, but it's about your love.
- You may know how to prophesy, heal people, pray, but do you know how to open your heart to love someone?
- Our spiritual calling is to love and to be loved by God.

Compassion is...

- (Greek) To be moved from the bowels—Jews believed the bowels were the seat of emotions like love and pity.
- Deeply felt emotions
- Not necessarily feeling sorry for someone but having a deep, abiding affection for them and their plight in life.
- Looking beyond the flesh and into the heart of the person.

God painted a picture of one side of His compassion by comparing Himself to a mother.

- Hosea 13:8 – a mother bear protecting her cubs
- Deuteronomy 32:11-12 – a mother eagle hovering over her chicks
- Isaiah 66:13 – a mother comforting her children
- Isaiah 49:15 – a nursing mother who doesn't forget her child

Jesus' number one motivation was compassion.

- **“He invited people into a connection with Himself, not a religious reform program.” (Danny Silk)**
- When Jesus felt compassion, it moved Him to meet the needs of people.
- Compassion moves you to change another person's situation—to leave them in a different condition than you found them.
- Jesus didn't create distance with broken people—He created connection.

Mother's Day & Father's Day can stir up emotions—positive and negative.

- 1 Peter 4:8 – **“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.”**
- Parents – love and compassion cover every hardship.
- Children (of all ages) – love and compassion extend grace.

THE RESULTS OF COMPASSION (in the Gospels)

- Compassion produces action.
- Jesus' compassion for 2 blind men brought their sight back.
- Jesus' compassion for a large crowd who were as sheep without a shepherd brought healing to their sick and food for their bodies.
- Jesus' compassion for a leper brought a touch (unheard of) and instant healing.
- Jesus's compassion for a widow mourning the loss of her son brought life back into his body.
- Compassion provided food, raised the dead, restored lives, healed the sick and brought leadership for those who were like sheep without a shepherd.
- We get to do the same thing—in our homes, CCC and the world!

1 John 3:17 (AMPC) – **“But if anyone has this world's' goods (resources for sustaining life) and sees his brother and fellow believer in need, yet closes his heart of compassion against him, how can the love of God live and remain in him?”**

- *Closes his heart* – to lock up or tightly shut
- Someone who is deeply moved by someone's need, but instead of letting himself be moved to action, he deliberately puts up a barrier, hardens his heart and shuts off the flow of compassion.

FINDING COMPASSION

Love and compassion come from God—it's not something we have to strive to attain.

- Romans 5:5 – **“God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit...”**
- The Father's love for us should be our motivation to love others the same.
- David prayed, **“You shall enlarge my heart...”** (Psalm 119:32)