

Doctrine of Compassion

1. Compassion is a universal experience of the human heart but must be cultivated.
 - *Exodus 2:6 And when she had opened it, she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children.*
2. God desires to show goodness and compassion to His people based upon their humility of heart and life.
 - *Deuteronomy 13:17 And there shall cleave nought of the cursed thing to thine hand: that the LORD may turn from the fierceness of his anger, and shew thee mercy, and have compassion upon thee, and multiply thee, as he hath sworn unto thy fathers;*
3. Even when the hand of Divine judgment is administered, God still waits to show compassion.
 - *Deuteronomy 30:3 That then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee.*
4. People who are in a state of apostasy can and will misunderstand Divine compassion and so pervert it that a virtue becomes a vice.
 - *1 Samuel 23:21 And Saul said, Blessed be ye of the LORD; for ye have compassion on me.*
5. Solomon prayed for the nation of Israel to receive God's compassion.
 - *1 Kings 8:5 And king Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel, that were assembled unto him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing sheep and oxen, that could not be told nor numbered for multitude.*
6. One reason why God did not allow the enemies of Israel to utterly destroy them is because of the compassion that was rooted in the covenant made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
 - *2 Kings 13:23 And the LORD was gracious unto them, and had compassion on them, and had respect unto them, because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not destroy them, neither cast he them from his presence as yet.*
7. God will have compassion upon those who return to Him.
 - *2 Chronicles 30:9 For if ye turn again unto the LORD, your brethren and your children shall find compassion before them that lead them captive, so that they shall come again into this land: for the LORD your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn away his face from you, if ye return unto him.*

8. The prophets of God, as the messengers of the Sovereign, are viewed in heaven as being an expression of Divine compassion.
 - *2 Chronicles 36:15 And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place:*
9. The heart of man can grow so cold and callous that all traces of human compassion disappear.
 - *2 Chronicles 36:7 Nebuchadnezzar also carried of the vessels of the house of the LORD to Babylon, and put them in his temple at Babylon.*
10. The heart of God is full of compassion so that He is pleased to forgive sins.
 - *Psalms 78:38 But he, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath.*
11. Time after time the Psalmist mentions the compassion of God in association with His graciousness and long suffering.
 - *Psalms 86:15 But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.*
 - *Psalms 111:4 He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered: the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.*
 - *Psalms 112:4 Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.*
 - *Psalms 145:3 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.*
12. The compassion of God is likened to a mother who loves her son.
 - *Isaiah 49:15 Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee.*
13. God knows how to show compassion according to sovereign grace in His own time.
 - *Jeremiah 12:15 And it shall come to pass, after that I have plucked them out I will return, and have compassion on them, and will bring them again, every man to his heritage, and every man to his land.*
14. No matter how angry the Lord may become with His people He will never cast them off forever.

- *Lamentations 3:31 For the Lord will not cast off for ever: But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies.*

15. People in troublesome times can always have hope for God's compassion.

- *Micah 7:19 He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.*

16. As the Lord watched the multitudes in His day, Jesus was constantly moved with compassion for all the people.

- *Matthew 9:36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.*

17. The compassion of Christ led to specific actions.

- Because of compassion Jesus healed the sick Matthew 14:14
- Because of compassion Jesus fed the hungry Matthew 15:32
- Because of compassion Jesus forgave sins Matthew 18:23-35
- Because of compassion Jesus opened the eyes of the blind Matthew 20:34
- Because of compassion Jesus cleansed the leper Mark 1:41
- Because of compassion Jesus delivered the demon possessed Mark 5:18, 19: 9:22)
- Because of compassion Jesus taught people Mark 6:34
- Because of compassion Jesus raised the dead Luke 7:13

18. Jesus demonstrated compassion and then He taught the same through His parables.

- The Story of the Good Samaritan Luke 10:29-37
- The Story of the Prodigal Son Luke 15:20ff

19. The compassion of God is administered according to His sovereign pleasure.

- *Romans 9:15 For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.*

20. As the greatest of all High Priests, Jesus Christ continues to have compassion upon men.

- *Hebrews 5:1 For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins: 2 Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity. 3 And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins. 4 And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron. 5 So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee. 6 As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.*

21. The apostle Paul deeply appreciated the compassion he was shown by the saints of God.

- *Hebrews 10:34 For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.*

22. Christians are commanded to have compassion one of another.

- *1 Peter 3:8 Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:*

23. There is a way to know if we have compassion. There is a test case found in 1 John 3:17. If we see others in need and move to help them, then we have compassion, and if we do not help those in need, then the love of God and the compassion of Christ does not dwell in the heart.

- *1 John 3:17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?*