

## Doctrine of Mercy

1. Mercy (Hebrew *hesed*, kindness; Greek. *eleos*, compassion) is a form of love determined by the state or condition of its objects.
2. A person who needs mercy is one who is suffering, and while they may be unworthy or ill-deserving, receive great kindness and compassion.
3. Christians are to show mercy and grace towards all people.
  - *Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.*
  - *Matthew 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.*
  - *James 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.*
4. God delights to show mercy.
  - God showed mercy to Joseph. *Genesis 39:21 But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.*
  - God showed mercy to the Exodus Generation. *Exodus 15:13 Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people which thou hast redeemed: thou hast guided them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation.*
  - God shows mercy to those who love Him. *Exodus 20:6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.*
5. To visibly remind the people of this attribute, a special Ark of the Covenant was located in the most holy place on top of which was a mercy-seat. There, once a year on the Day of Atonement, blood was sprinkled so mercy could be shown by the forgiveness of sins.
  - *Exodus 25:17 And thou shalt make a mercy seat of pure gold: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof. 18 And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat. 19 And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: even of the mercy seat shall ye make the cherubims on the two ends thereof. 20 And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be. 21 And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee.*

*22 And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.*

6. Based upon gospel obedience, God will be inclined to have mercy.

- *Deuteronomy 7:12 Wherefore it shall come to pass, if ye hearken to these judgments, and keep, and do them, that the LORD thy God shall keep unto thee the covenant and the mercy which he sware unto thy fathers:*
- *Psalms 25:10 All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.*

7. In time of warfare mercy can be shown to an enemy for favors rendered.

- *Judges 1:24 And the spies saw a man come forth out of the city, and they said unto him, Shew us, we pray thee, the entrance into the city, and we will shew thee mercy.*

8. God made a covenant that mercy would not depart from the house of David as it had in the house of Saul.

- *2 Samuel 7:15 But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee.*
- *1 Kings 3:6 And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.*

9. Only the true Lord God shows mercy. The gods of human imagination are petty and jealous and mean spirited.

- *1 Kings 8:23 And he said, LORD God of Israel, there is no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath, who keepest covenant and mercy with thy servants that walk before thee with all their heart:*

10. The mercy of God is inexhaustible.

- *1 Chronicles 16:34 O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.*

11. It is good to sing of the mercies of the Lord.

- *Ezra 3:11 And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD; because he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.*

“I will sing of the mercies of the LORD for ever:  
 I will sing, I will sing  
 I will sing of the mercies of the LORD for ever:  
 I will sing of the mercies of the LORD.

With my mouth will I make known  
 Thy faithfulness, Thy faithfulness  
 With my mouth will I make known  
 Thy faithfulness to all generations.

I will sing of the mercies of the LORD for ever:  
 I will sing of the mercies of the LORD.”

- *Psalms 59:16 But I will sing of thy power; yea, I will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning: for thou hast been my defence and refuge in the day of my trouble.*
- *Psalms 59:17 Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing: for God is my defence, and the God of my mercy.*

12. In the midst of great tribulation the mercy of God is present.

- *Ezra 9:9 For we were bondmen; yet our God hath not forsaken us in our bondage, but hath extended mercy unto us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to give us a reviving, to set up the house of our God, and to repair the desolations thereof, and to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem.*

13. In the hour of prayer the mercy of God can and should be appealed to.

- *Nehemiah 1:5 And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments: ...11 O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king's cupbearer.*
- *Psalms 4:1 A Psalm of David. Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness: thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer.*

14. Remembering the mercy of God is an act of worship.

- *Psalms 5:7 But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple.*
- *1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

15. Unless God has mercy upon poor sinners all shall be consumed.

- *Psalms 6:2 Have mercy upon me, O LORD; for I am weak: O LORD, heal me; for my bones are vexed.*
- *Psalms 25:7 Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O LORD.*

16. While few men will have mercy upon their enemies, God might.

- *Psalms 9:13 Have mercy upon me, O LORD; consider my trouble which I suffer of them that hate me, thou that liftest me up from the gates of death:*
- *Psalms 25:16 Turn thee unto me, and have mercy upon me; for I am desolate and afflicted.*

17. Those who know the integrity and character of God can rest upon His mercy.

- *Psalms 13:5 But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation.*

18. Truly, the Christian can proclaim the mercy of God to others.

- *Psalms 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.*
- *2 Timothy 1:2 To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.*

19. God is looking for individuals who fear Him, in order to show mercy to them.

- *Psalms 33:18 Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy;*

20. The mercy of God is incomprehensible.

- *Psalms 36:5 Thy mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens; and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds.*

21. Those who receive mercy are to show mercy by charitable giving.

- *Psalms 37:21 The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again: but the righteous sheweth mercy, and giveth.*

22. Those who sincerely repent of sin can hope to find mercy with the Lord.

- *Psalms 51:1 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.*

“Come, every soul by sin oppressed;  
There’s mercy with the Lord,  
And He will surely give you rest  
By trusting in His Word.

Only trust Him, only trust Him,  
Only trust Him now;  
He will save you, He will save you,  
He will save you now.”

John H. Stockton

23. Sometimes, in the dark night of the soul the mercy of God seems to be distant.

- *Psalms 77:8 Is his mercy clean gone for ever? Doth his promise fail for evermore?*
- *Isaiah 54:8 In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer.*

24. The mercy of God is united to truth.

- *Psalms 85:10 Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.*

25. God is more willing to show mercy to sinners than they are willing to sin.

- *Psalms 86:5 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.*

26. There is no sin too great for the grace and mercy of God..

- *Psalms 86:13 For great is thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell.*

27. The mercy of God is to be affirmed and praised.

- *Psalms 86:15 But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.*

28. Though the righteous stumble into sin, the mercy of God is present to sustain the soul from everlasting ruin.

- *Psalms 94:18 When I said, My foot slippeth; thy mercy, O LORD, held me up.*

29. The mercy of God cannot be exhausted nor can it ever end.

- *Psalms 100:5 For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.*
- *Psalms 103:17 But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;*
- *Psalms 106:1 Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.*

30. One generation is responsible for teaching the next generation about the mercy of God. It is an endless refrain.

- *Psalms 136:11 And brought out Israel from among them: for his mercy endureth for ever: 12 With a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm: for his mercy endureth for ever. 13 To him which divided the Red sea into parts: for his mercy endureth for ever: 14 And made Israel to pass through the midst of it: for his mercy endureth for ever: 15 But overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red sea: for his mercy endureth for ever. 16 To him which led his people through the wilderness: for his mercy endureth for ever. 17 To him which smote great kings: for his mercy endureth for ever: 18 And slew famous kings: for his mercy endureth for ever: 19 Sihon king of the Amorites: for his mercy endureth for ever: 20 And Og the king of Bashan: for his mercy endureth for ever: 21 And gave their land for an heritage: for his mercy endureth for ever: 22 Even an heritage unto Israel his servant: for his mercy endureth for ever. 23 Who remembered us in our low estate: for his mercy endureth for ever: 24 And hath redeemed us from our enemies: for his mercy endureth for ever. 25 Who giveth food to all flesh: for his mercy endureth for ever. 26 O give thanks unto the God of heaven: for his mercy endureth for ever.*

31. Christians are never to stop showing mercy to the most undeserving.

- *Proverbs 3:3 Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:*

32. Personal happiness is a noble emotion that results from showing mercy.

- *Proverbs 14:21 He that despiseth his neighbour sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he.*

33. Special mercy is to be extended to the poor.

- *Proverbs 14:31 He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoureth him hath mercy on the poor.*

34. By showing mercy with a tender heart of compassion and kindness men depart from evil.

- *Proverbs 16:6 By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.*

35. Government is stabilized when the official policy is to manifest mercy and truth.

- *Proverbs 20:28 Mercy and truth preserve the king: and his throne is upholden by mercy.*

36. There is a quality to life as well as a quantity when mercy is manifested.

- *Proverbs 21:21 He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness, and honour.*

37. Any attempt to hide sin will negate the mercy of God, for then He will be forced to deal in justice.

- *Proverbs 28:13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.*

38. When sin reaches a saturation point, God will either move in ultimate judgment against His people, or He will remember they are but flesh and will show mercy.

- *Isaiah 49:10 They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them.*

39. The goodness and mercy of God is designed to elicit praise, thanksgiving and worship.

- *Isaiah 49:13 Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the LORD hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted.*

40. The earth will be removed and the universe will be destroyed before the mercy of God is exhausted.

- *Isaiah 54:10 For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee.*

41. Those who are sorry for sin, and will forsake it, have hope that God will extend mercy to the soul.

- *Isaiah 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*

42. The attribute of divine mercy is united to God as a keeper of covenants.

- *Daniel 9:4 And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments;*
- *Luke 1:72 To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant;*

43. Sometimes in His wrath God warns that His mercy will be withdrawn apart from gospel repentance.

- *Hosea 1:6 And she conceived again, and bare a daughter. And God said unto him, Call her name Lo-ruhamah: for I will no more have mercy upon the house of Israel; but I will utterly take them away.*

44. As God has mercy upon individuals, so He has mercy upon nations.

- *Hosea 1:7 But I will have mercy upon the house of Judah, and will save them by the LORD their God, and will not save them by bow, nor by sword, nor by battle, by horses, nor by horsemen.*

“O beautiful for spacious skies,  
For amber waves of grain;  
For purple mountain majesties  
Above the fruited plain!

America! America!  
God shed His grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood,  
From sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for heroes proved  
In liberating strife,  
Who more than self their country loved,  
And mercy more than life!

America! America!  
 May God thy gold refine,  
 Till all success be nobleness,  
 And every gain divine.

O beautiful for patriot dream  
 That sees beyond the years  
 Thine alabaster cities gleam,  
 Undimmed by human tears!

America! America!  
 God mend thine every flaw,  
 Confirm thy soul in self control,  
 Thy liberty in law.”

Katharine Lee Bates  
 1859-1929

- *Luke 1:54 He hath holpen [helped] his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy;*

45. Sin can cause God’s mercy to be forfeited.

- *Jonah 2:8 They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.*

46. God has revealed to mankind what is required of him for righteousness.

- *Micah 6:8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?*

47. God does not stay angry with His creation for ever, for He delights to show mercy.

- *Micah 7:18 Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? He retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.*

48. Let the voice of the church cry out to God for mercy, and a renewal of spiritual work.

- *Habakkuk 3:2 O LORD, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy.*

49. During the days of His humiliation, Jesus showed much mercy to sinners, for this is why He came into the world.

- *Matthew 9:13 But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.*

50. No one who ever cried out for mercy was sent away without it.

- Two blind men cried for mercy and were healed. *Matthew 9:27 And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou Son of David, have mercy on us.*
- A grieving mother cried for mercy and grace was granted. *Matthew 15:22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.*
- A bereaved father pleaded for mercy for his son, and the son was cured. *Matthew 17:15 Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water.*

51. In the strongest terms possible, Jesus denounced the religious leaders of Israel for not showing mercy.

- *Matthew 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.*

52. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is mercy.

- *Luke 1:78 Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us,*

53. The concept of showing mercy is not simply a nice idea, it is a royal command.

- *Luke 10:37 And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.*

54. In hell there is no mercy shown to those in torment.

- *Luke 16:24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.*

55. The exercising of mercy is a divine prerogative of God's sovereignty. God is under no obligation to show mercy to anyone.

- *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. 16 So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy....18 Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth.*

56. By showing mercy, God makes known the spiritual riches of His glory.

- *Romans 9:23 And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory,*

57. In His sovereignty God can bypass one generation while pouring out abounding mercy upon another. One generation must endure depression, and a world war, while another enjoys showers of blessings.

- *Romans 11:30 For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief:*
- *1 Peter 2:10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.*

58. The mercy of God is displayed in glory against the exceeding sinfulness of sin.

- *Romans 11:32 For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.*

59. The ability to show mercy in superabundance is recognized as a spiritual gift.

- *Romans 12:8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.*

60. The mercy of God is extended to Gentiles as well as Jews for it is universal in scope.

- *Romans 15:9 And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name.*

61. The mercy of God gives strength for spiritual service.

- *2 Corinthians 4:1 Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;*

62. Christians should seek to bestow the blessing of mercy upon others of like mind and faith.

- *Galatians 6:16 And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.*

63. The mercy of God is united to the love of God.

- *Ephesians 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,*

64. The mercy of God is manifested in a variety of ways.

- In salvation. *1 Timothy 1:13 Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.*
- In physical healing. *Philippians 2:27 For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.*
- Through material prosperity. *2 Timothy 1:16 The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain:*
- Grace on the day of ultimate judgment. *2 Timothy 1:18 The Lord grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day: and in how many things he ministered unto me at Ephesus, thou knowest very well.*
- Upon those who have endured extreme hardships. *James 5:11 Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.*

65. No one will ever be saved apart from God's mercy.

- *Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;*

66. Because God is a God of great grace, we come to Him in order to obtain mercy. The mind is to be engaged in this specific prayer request.

- *Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

67. Where the law of God is despised, mercy will be denied.

- *Hebrews 10:28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:*
- *James 2:13 For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.*

68. Mercy is united with the wisdom that is from above.

- *James 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.*

69. Let every believer never stop looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- *Jude 21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.*