

Revisiting Vision: Compassionate in Attitude

Various Texts

Biblical Compassion

- In Scripture, compassion is NOT about feeling bad for someone or pitying them
 - Even though there is a place for that in the life of Christians
- Rather, Biblical Compassion is an expression of love focused on understanding
 - Real love involves a deep, intimate knowledge of the beloved
- Compassion originates in God's nature (Ps 145:8-9)
 - God does not merely show compassion; compassion defines His character
- Jesus' ministry was marked by compassion (Matt. 9:36; 14:14; 15:32; Mark 6:34; 8:2; 9:22; Luke 7:13; 10:33)
 - Because this reflects the heart of His Father (Luke 15:20)
- Jesus saw real needs. He felt real hurts. He acted in real ways
 - Orthodoxy → Orthopathy → Orthopraxy
 - Orthodoxy: Right beliefs
 - Orthopathy: Right affections
 - Orthopraxy: Right actions

People of Compassion

- We are called to be compassionate
 - Loving with others based upon the love that God has shown us (1 Jn 4:19-21)
- Jesus said that the world would know that we belong to Him by how we love (John 13:35)
 - 'Love one another' is the most repeated command in Scripture (Jn. 13:34; 15:12, 17; Rom. 12:10; 13:8; Eph. 4:2; 1 Thess. 3:12; 4:9; 1 Pet. 1:22; 4:8; 1 Jn. 3:11, 23 4:7, 11-12; 2 Jn. 1:5)

Clothed with Compassion

- Scripture also gives us ideas of how to show this compassion through the 'one another's & 'each other's of the NT
 - Love (21), Be at peace (5), Encourage (8), Be patient (6), Be concerned (1), Accept (1), Carry burdens (1), Forgive (1), Don't lie to (1), Build up (2), Be kind to (2), Confess to (1), Pray for (1), Serve (2), Be devoted to (1), Don't judge (1), Instruct (2), Greet (4), Be hospitable (1), Submit to (1), Admonish (1), Meet with (2), Don't slander (1), Be humble (2)

God is Love

- It is important for us to be defined by our compassionate love for God and one another
- And it is equally important to let God define what love is
 - Not culture
 - Not emotions
 - GOD! (1 Jn. 4:7-12)

So What?

- If we know God through Christ, we know what love looks like
- Are we letting God's compassionate love for us define how we treat others, so, they can see God through us?

Meditation Verse: *Colossians 3:12*

Personal Applications