

# **THE DIVINE COMPASSION OF CHRIST**

*Fairview Memorial  
Missionary Baptist  
Church,  
Winter Bible  
Study, Monday,  
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*Psalm 78:37-38 For their heart was not right with him, neither were they  
stedfast in his covenant. 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.*

## Introduction:

Compassion is complex. Compassion's complexity does not lie in execution but understanding. You notice when someone is compassionate but oftentimes do not recognize why they are compassionate. **Compassion** defined by Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary is suffering with another, painful sympathy; a sensation of sorrow excited by the distress or misfortunes of another; pity; commiseration. Compassion is a mixed passion, compounded of love and sorrow; at least some portion of love generally attends the pain or regret, or is excited by it. As a verb, Webster simply defines it as pity. Compassionate defined by Webster is having a temper or disposition to pity; inclined to show mercy; merciful; having a heart that is tender, and easily moved by the distresses, sufferings, wants and infirmities of others.

**Divine** defined Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary is pertaining to the true God whether the divine nature or divine perfections, also, proceeding from God such as divine judgements, characterized as Godlike, heavenly, excellent in the highest degree, extraordinary.

For this study we may define **divine compassion** as the extraordinary, exalted, heavenly demonstration of many attributes of God, proceeding forth from God. In this, the Father manifests his loving, kind, merciful, pitiful, longsuffering, sympathetic nature roused by the distresses, misfortunes, pains, regrets and sorrows of man. Expiation which involves the atonement, forgiveness and removal of sin and the guilt associated with it creating a ransomed, redeemed creature by way of the sacrifice of his only begotten son, Jesus Christ. Revealing the only way one can pleasingly, piously worship and serve God. Expiation finds its home in the divine compassion of the God and his only begotten son Jesus Christ.

Please make note that one attribute of God does not invalidate another attribute of God. Therefore, God's holiness, veracity, justness, immutability, omnipresence, omnipotence, omniscience, and any other attribute are not diminished by God's divine compassion. All attributes of God are equal and command satisfaction. It is my personal belief that they all intersect within the realm of God's divine compassion.

## I. In the Beginning (Genesis 1:1), Compassion at Creation and The Fall of Man

1. (Genesis 1:27, 2:8) Man is found in paradise, upright and perfect with joyful work.
2. (Genesis 1:29, 2:9,16) God provided for every need, spiritually and temporally.
3. (Genesis 2:17) Possessing eternal life man only had one stipulation.
4. (Genesis 3:8, Rev. 13:8) Man enjoyed unveiled communion with God with a plan of salvation in place.
5. (Genesis 1:26) Man did nothing to warrant the intricate way God cared for him.
6. (Genesis 3:12,17) God did not circumvent man's free will but wanted man to choose to worship him.
7. (Genesis 3:15, 21, Romans 6:23, Deuteronomy 30:1-3) After declaring the true sacrifice God provided a picture in providing Adam and Eve a covering and revealing the wages of sin.

## II. The Compassionate Nature of God revealed in the Birth of Jesus Christ

1. (John 3:16)
  - a. God's love what the determining factor for Jesus' arrival into the world.
  - b. Greek word agapao by Strong's is defined as to love, beloved, or loved. Thayer's defines it as to welcome, to entertain, to be fond of, to love dearly.
    - i. *We could so God so dearly loved his creation or God was so fond of his creation that he sacrificed his only begotten Son, That every man that believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*
  - c. The Hebrew word ISH can be translated as man denoting husband or each, every, denoting a whole group or anyone, whosoever, someone, a certain one.
  - d. (Luke 2:13-14) in song God's benevolence manifested on earth signifying his desire, peace on earth, good will toward men.
2. (John 10:30, Psalm 78:38) Jesus' life demonstrated he like his father was full of compassion.

## III. Characteristics of Compassion

1. Love
  - a. (John 3:16, Romans 5:8, Ephesians 2:4) God's great love commended toward us in Christ's death.
  - b. (Deuteronomy 7:7-8) The LORD chooses who he loves , redeems and retains his fidelity toward them not because of strength but rather out of weakness.
  - c. (Jeremiah 31:3, Romans 1:20) declares God's love **Eternal!**
  - d. (1 John 3:1) Try to wrap your head around the love of God.
  - e. (1 Corinthians 13:13) Charity > Faith and Hope.
  - f. (John 15:13-14) The greatest expression of love.
  - g. (John 13:34) The new commandment to love one another as Jesus loved us.
2. Kindness/Lovingkindness
  - a. (Psalm 17:7) The Hebrew word chesed is here translated lovingkindness. The word literally means kindness implying piety.

- b. (1 Corinthians 13:4) Charity is described as kind.
  - c. (Jeremiah 31:3, John 6:44) The lovingkindness of God draws us.
  - d. (Hosea 2:19) The LORD, having forgiven sin betroths the church to him in lovingkindness.
3. Mercy/Mercifulness
- a. (Psalm 103:17) God's mercy is **Eternal!**
  - b. (Isaiah 5:25) Even when we are disobedient his hand of mercy is stretched out still.
  - c. (Jonah 4:2) Knew God would forgive the Assyrians if they repented. It is His nature.
  - d. (Joel 2:13, Micah 7:18, Titus 3:5) In a nutshell, the plan of salvation because God delights in mercy.
  - e. (1 Timothy 2:4) Who would have all to be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth.
4. Longsuffering/Patience
- a. Longsuffering defined by Webster's 1828 as forbearance, clemency, patience.
  - b. Relationship of Longsuffering/Patience to compassion one need only look at the latin root of the word compassion.
    - i. Latin word Con – means together or with
    - ii. Latin word patior – means to endure, suffer, permit.
  - c. (Romans 9:22) God patiently endures and does not retaliate.
  - d. (1 Corinthians 13:4) Charity suffereth long.
5. Sympathy
- a. (Hebrews 4:15) "be touched with the feeling" is translated from the Greek word sumpatheo meaning sympathy or to sympathize.
  - b. Jesus is a sympathetic high priest.
  - c. (John 11:35) Jesus wept.
6. Things that arouse God's compassion
- a. Distresses, pains, misfortunes, regrets and sorrow of man.
    - i. (Job 14:1) Troubles are a universal truth.
    - ii. (Exodus 3:7) God see our affliction, hears our cries, and knows our sorrows.
    - iii. (Numbers 20:16) He succours, or provides aid, in times of need.
    - iv. (Psalm 116:3, Luke 7:37-38, 48) Salvation remedies trouble.
    - v. (Acts 16:27-30, Psalm 51) Jesus delivers from troubles.
    - vi. (Luke 23:42-43) Both literally nailed to a cross, one still able to repent, only ONE able to save.
  - b. (Psalm 34:18) A broken heart and contrite spirit.
    - i. Webster defines the seat of the heart as the bowels.
7. Faith without works
- a. (James 2:17, Matthew 5:15-16) Show the world the same compassion God showed you.
    - i. (John 4:7-39) The account of the Samaritan woman is Jesus addressing her spiritual needs and remedying them. Spiritual needs.
    - ii. (Luke 10:30-37) The law proved to be lacking severely in compassion.

- iii. (Acts 6:1) The office of deacon was instituted to take care of temporal needs of members. Pastors and deacons should exemplify compassion.
  - b. (James 2:15) in today's language, "I'll pray for you." Remedy the need.
- 8. Conclusion**
- a. Be more Christlike.
  - b. Don't look for praise or reward.
  - c. Be closer, much closer so we can vicariously feel what our brothers and sisters are going through.

### **References**

The Holy Bible (KJV)

Webster's 1828 Dictionary

Strong's Concise Concordance