

As We Have Received Mercy, Let Us Be Merciful

“For judgment is without mercy to
the one who has shown no mercy.
Mercy triumphs over judgment.”
(James 2:13)

As We Have Received Mercy, Let Us Be Merciful

- Previously:
 - What is Mercy?
 - What Does the Bible Teach about Mercy
 - Mercy is a Defining Characteristic of God
 - Jesus Christ is God's Greatest Expression of Mercy
- Tonight:
 - Christians Should Practice Mercy
 - Mercy Is An Essential Requirement For Christians

Christians Should Practice Mercy

- Matt. 5:7 - “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.”
- Only God is all-seeing and all-wise to dispense grace and mercy to humankind
 - Heb. 4:16 - “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”
- We are not God and cannot know enough about others to determine who should receive grace and mercy

Christians Should Practice Mercy

- Our part is to be merciful, not to make judgments about who deserves mercy.
 - Do you deserve mercy; have you earned grace? Then do not be quick to decide that others should not receive mercy from you.
 - Matt. 5:7 - “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.”

Christians Should Practice Mercy

- The inverse is implicitly true: “Cursed are the unmerciful, for they shall not obtain mercy.”
 - James 2:13 - “For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.”
 - Psalms 116:1-2 - “I love the LORD, because He has heard My voice and my supplications. 2 Because He has inclined His ear to me, Therefore I will call upon Him as long as I live.”

We Are Changed By Our Exercise Of Mercy

- “The willingness to forgive is a sign of spiritual and emotional maturity. It is one of the great virtues to which we all should aspire. Imagine a world filled with individuals willing both to apologize and to accept an apology. Is there any problem that could not be solved among people who possessed the humility and largeness of spirit and mercy to do both when needed?” (Gordon B. Hinckley, Standing for Something: 10 Neglected Virtues That Will Heal Our Hearts and Homes)
- “I have always found that mercy bears richer fruits than strict justice.” (Abraham Lincoln)

Mercy Is An Essential Requirement For Christians

- Micah 6:8 - “He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?”
- Luke 6:36 - “Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.”
- Eph. 4:31-32 - “Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.”
- Col. 3:12-13 - “Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.”

Mercy Is An Essential Requirement For Christians

Teach me to feel another's woe,
To hide the fault I see;
That mercy I to others show,
That mercy show to me.

(Alexander Pope)

Mercy Is An Essential Requirement For Christians

- Those who show mercy must do it in a spirit of cheerfulness
 - Rom. 12:8 - “He who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”
- George Whitefield, as he watched a criminal walking to the gallows, said: ***“There, but for the grace of God, go I.”***

Mercy Is An Essential Requirement For Christians

- “There is a way of forgiving that pushes a man further down into the gutter; and there is a way of forgiving that lifts him up out of the mire. True mercy and forgiveness are based, not on a spirit of arrogant superiority, but on loving humility. *(William Barclay, Commentary on Romans)*

Human Mercy Is Best Illustrated By The Example Of The Good Samaritan

- Luke 10:30-37 - “Then Jesus answered and said: ‘A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves... So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?’
37 And he said, ‘He who showed mercy on him.’ Then Jesus said to him, ‘Go and do likewise.’”

Christians Should Practice Mercy

- Divine mercy is for those who are merciful
 - Matt. 5:7 - “Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.”
 - “A merciful man imitates God and disappoints Satan; a merciless man imitates Satan and disappoints God. How wrong it is for us to trust in God's mercy but show none ourselves! Who will not show mercy unto others, how can he ever hope to have mercy? Those who are unmerciful make themselves incapable of receiving mercy.”
(Edmund Spenser)

Christians Should Practice Mercy

- Those who refuse to forgive the sins of others will find their own sins un-forgiven.
 - Matt. 6:15 - “But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”
 - Matt. 18:23-35 - Account of the un-forgiving servant

Christians Should Practice Mercy

- The tormented rich man cried out to Abraham for mercy, but he received none because he had not been merciful toward poor Lazarus
 - Luke 16:19-25
- Those who refuse to show mercy here and now will face the cold justice of God untempered by mercy in eternity
 - James 2:13 - “For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.”

Christians Should Practice Mercy

- Matt. 9:10-13 - “Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. 11 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners? 12 When Jesus heard that, He said to them, Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 13 But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

Christians Should Practice Mercy

- Matt. 23:23-24 - “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. 24 Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!”

Christians Should Practice Mercy

- Mercy regulates the following:
 - The level of compassion and pity we feel for others
 - Our ability to respond to the needs or cries for help of others
 - The harshness with which we judge the actions and motives of others
 - Our ability to show acts of kindness, gentleness to others
 - Our willingness to avoid seeking justice or revenge for the sins of others against us
 - Our ability to stand for the truth and promote righteousness without destroying or discouraging others in the process
- Mercy demands a level of faith and maturity that not everyone achieves.

Christians Should Practice Mercy

- Has God been merciful to us?
 - Do we realize the great sacrifice given for us?
 - Do we realize the awful wrath of God that we have avoided because of His mercy?
 - Can we see that without mercy, there would be no way for us to stand before God?
 - How can someone who loves the mercy given him be unwilling to extend mercy to others? Matt. 18:21-34

Christians Should Practice Mercy

- Do we realize the wrath of God against us is averted by His mercy?
- Do we see that without mercy, there would be no way to stand before God with hope in the Judgment?
 - Matt. 18:33 - “Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?”

Praise God For His Mercy!

“The greatest attribute of heaven is mercy;
And 'tis the crown of justice, and the glory,
Where it may kill with right,
Instead it saves with pity.”

(John Fletcher)