

Imperfect People of Compassion

Colossians 3:12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Defining Compassion:

True compassion arises from knowing who we are, from a solid identity as being dearly loved
As ... put on...

Compassion sees value in someone who is struggling

Compassion can care about multiple hurting people, in complex situations

Who deserves Compassion?

Compassion is not exclusive from justice, but mixes with it
(perhaps is at its best and most vibrant when it is mixed)

Compassion does not take away the need for consequences to our actions.

Compassion can transform the heart

Often times the best help we can actually give someone is to truly listen to them
And then gently point them to God in prayer or simple truth.

A desire to be compassionate can lead to actions that aren't actually helpful.

What happens when we realize our own imperfection in showing compassion?

We too need compassion. We should show ourselves compassion.

We can still show compassion even if it is imperfect

The older we become, the more we realize how limited we are in our ability to love, how impure our hearts are, and how complex our motivations are. And there is a real temptation to want to look inside of ourselves and clean it all out, and become people with a pure heart, unstained intentions, and unconditional love. Such an attempt is doomed to failure and leads us to ever greater despair. The more we look into ourselves and try to figure ourselves out, the more we become entangled in our own imperfections. Indeed, we cannot save ourselves. Only Jesus can save us. That is why it is so important to remove your inner eye away from the complexities of your own broken heart toward the pure but broken heart of Jesus. Looking at him and his immense mercy will give you the ability to accept your own imperfections and to really let yourself be cared for by the mercy and love of Jesus.

... Letting go of the desire to be perfect lovers, and allowing God to love our people through us, that is the great spiritual call that is given to you and to me. There in the pure heart of God, embraced by his unconditional love, you will find the true joy and peace your heart is longing for. -Henri Nouwen

Your imperfect acts of compassion connected to the love of God and flowing out of His love, have a profound impact on this world.

Who is someone in need of compassion?

How might God use you to show them compassion?

Will you let yourself be cared for? Will you let yourself suffer with someone else, to share in their trouble and bring yourself to offer care?

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