

## DOCTRINE OF COMPASSION

- I.** Introduction.
- A.** Compassion recognizes the sorrow or distress of another with the urge to help.
  - B.** It is synonymous with pity, sympathy and showing mercy.
  - C.** Compassion is slightly different from mercy in that mercy emphasizes the disposition to restrain from judgment otherwise deserved and power to forgive; compassion looks to the desire or will (motivation) to express mercy recognizing the helplessness of one in need.
  - D.** It is a by-product of caring for or loving another living thing.
  - E.** It is part of God's plan of grace. Exo.33:19
- II.** Vocabulary:
- A.** Hebrew:
1. חָמַל - chamal; verb; lit. "to spare": concern, have or had compassion, pity.
  2. חַמְלָה - chem<sup>l</sup>lah; noun; compassion, mercy.
  3. רָחַם - racham; verb; to love, have compassion: find compassion, finds mercy, had or has compassion, mercy, pity, show compassion.
  4. רַחֵם - racham; noun; compassion, mercy
  5. רַחֵם - r<sup>e</sup>chem; noun; used in the plural to express intensity; hapax; compassion.
  6. רַחוּם - rachum; adj.; compassionate, merciful.
  7. רַחֲמָנִי - rachamaniy – adj. fem.; compassionate.
  8. חוּס - chus; verb; to pity, look upon with compassion, be sorry: concern, had or have compassion, have pity, looked with pity, show pity, spare.
  9. נָחַם - nacham; verb; lit. to relent, repent (change one's mind); translated compassion 2x to indicate God's compassion expressed towards His servants. Deu.32:36; Psa.135:14
  10. חָנַן - chanan; verb; lit. to show favor, be gracious; translated 1x as compassion to illustrate God's grace employs compassion. Job 8 :5
- B.** Greek:
1. ἔλεος – eleos; noun; primary meaning is mercy, pity; translated compassion 2x to show the close association between mercy and compassion. Mat.9:13; 12:7
  2. σπλαγχνίζομαι – splanchnizomai; verb; lit. to be moved in the inward parts, hence to feel compassion: primary word for passion; used 12x.
  3. οἰχτεῖρω – oichteiro; verb; to pity, have compassion on.
  4. οἰχτιρμός – oichtirmos; noun; compassion, pity, mercy.
  5. πολὺσπλαγχνος – polusplagchnos; adj.; hapax; Jam.5:11; very compassionate, full of compassion.

- III. Compassion relating to God.**
- A.** Compassion as an emotion is anthropopathy as related to God.
  - B.** Emotions of the soul are responders; they react to circumstances, etc., with fear, anger, happiness, sadness, etc.
  - C.** Anthropopathism is language of accommodation to teach that God has facilitated in his plan conditions corresponding to how man reacts to God.
  - D.** God is immutable and has established His plan perpetually from eternity past and does not deviate in expression of His plan and Person.
  - E.** Man is designed to respond to God, not vice versa.
  - F.** God acts; man (and creation) reacts.
  - G.** Human emotions facilitate the ability of man to recognize his responsive role towards God.
  - H.** Compassion is characteristic of God's Divine nature. Gen.19:16; Exo.33:19; Deu.4:31; Deu.32:36; 1Sam.23:21; Psa.116:5; et al.
  - I.** In fact, God is said to be full of compassion. Jam.5:11
  - J.** His compassion is closely associated with His mercy. Deu.13:17; Rom.9:15; Jam.5:11
  - K.** It is further closely associated with His grace. Exo.33:19; 34:6; 2Kgs.13:23; 2Chro.2:30:9; etc.
  - L.** His compassion, along with grace and patience can be summed up as by-products of His attribute of Divine love. Exo.34:6; Neh.9:17; 13:22; Psa.103:8; Joe.2:13; Jon.4:2
  - M.** His compassion is moved to express itself with mercy in response to +V and orientation to God's plan. Exo.34:6-7a; ex. The Ninevites of the book of Jonah, Jon.4:11
  - N.** +V are targets for His compassion. Deu.32:36; Psa.135:14
  - O.** His compassion is withheld for those otherwise -V rejecting God's plan. Exo.34:7b; Psa.77:9; Hos.1:6; 2:4; Hos.1:12
  - P.** His compassion otherwise is replaced with Divine wrath. Psa.77:9; 78:38
  - Q.** God will relent from impending judgment on -V and the reversionist both nationally and personally and apply compassion if willingness to make reversion recovery is evidenced. Deu.30:3; 2Chr.30:9; Isa.55:7; Joe.2:13; Jon.4:2
  - R.** His compassion is exercised according to His Sovereign will. Exo.33:19
  - S.** His compassion is bound by the fidelity of His word and plan. Deu.4:31; 2Kgs.13:23
  - T.** He expresses compassion on the poor and needy. Psa.72:13
  - U.** Compassion expressed by God indicates that peace has been established with men by God. Cp.Jer.16:5
  - V.** God's compassions never fail. Lam.3:22
  - W.** God promotes compassion by others towards the +V adjusted believer. Ex.Dan.1:9
- IV. Compassion and Christ.**
- A.** Christ was the perfect example of God's compassion expressed towards men.
  - B.** It was derived from the helplessness and need of men. Mat.9:36; Luk.7:11-15
  - C.** His compassion motivated Him to heal the sick. Mat.14:14; 20:34; Mar.1:40

- D. Compassion compelled Him to provide living grace. Mat.15:32; Mar.8:2
  - E. Compassion drove Him to feed them spiritually. Mar.6:34
- V. Compassion and the believer.
- A. Compassion is part of the characteristics of the adjusted believer. Psa.112:4
  - B. Its possession is to be desired over ritual in worship of God. Mat.9:13; 12:7
  - C. It is evidenced in kindness to God's creatures. Pro.12:10
  - D. The believer willing to R<sub>B</sub> and isolate the STA can expect to be a recipient of God's compassion. Pro.28:13
  - E. It is evidence of the FHS. Phi.2:1
  - F. It is indicative of the "new man" and a part of the royal imperatives in our interactions with one another. Col.3:12-13
  - G. It was characteristic of the "good Samaritan". Luk.10:33
  - H. It is the attitude we are to have towards those that make reversion recovery e.g., the story of the prodigal son, Luk.15:20
  - I. It is an essential ingredient in grace orientation.
  - J. Lack of compassion results from anger and oft times prejudice. Ex. Jonah and the Ninevites. Jon.4:1 cf.3:10
  - K. Not having this attribute can lead to mean-spiritedness towards others and treating others in a harsh or indifferent way. Ex. David in operation Bathsheba; 2Sam.12:1-9
  - L. Its omission is a result of being self-centered and self-willed in denial of grace. Ex. Jonah towards the Ninevites; Jon.4
  - M. Lack of compassion is what gave the Assyrians their vicious reputation during Jonah's time.
  - N. Lacking compassion is hypocritical on the part of the believer in light of their salvation by grace.
  - O. Parents are expected to have compassion on their children. Psa.103:13

*"Light arises in the darkness for the upright; He is  
Gracious and compassionate and righteous."  
Psa.112:4*