



CREATING A CARING CONGREGATION

(Practicing the "One Anothers" of the Bible)

"Having Compassion for One Another"

1 Peter 3:8

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

Why is it beneficial for Christians to study the one anothers of the bible? How would your relationships change if you committed to being a doer of the word of God as it relates to the one anothers of the bible? (Read James 1:22-25) Imagine practicing the one anothers in your home and local church congregation. Will you commit to do your part of one another relationships?

1. The Christian community is taught in 1 Peter 3:8, among other scriptural references, to be compassionate to each other. The word "compassion" means seeing things from another person's perspective with love. It requires that one focuses on the other person's possible feelings and thinking. It raises the question, what might it be like to be them? It postpones harsh judgement until there is greater understanding. It is predicated, or based upon, caring and, therefore, caring enough to enter another person's world. Think deeply with me about the biblical concept of compassion. Read St. Matthew 9:36; 14:14, Luke 10:33-37; 15:20 and Colossians 3:12.
2. How does it feel to be misunderstood and negatively judged by others who do not understand your situation? Do you feel attached or distant to them when that happens to you? What is your typical physical response when you feel that way? What is your emotional response? Are you strong enough to share your thoughts and feelings with people who love and care about you?
3. Have you ever judged someone in a negative way but later, when you were in a comparable situation, had to repent or ask God to forgive you? Were you strong enough to apologize to the person and admit that you did not understand the situation earlier and that your negative judgement was out of ignorance? Have you become hesitant to jump to conclusions about another person's life? Do you do unto others what you don't want them to do unto you? Have you learned how to listen with compassion instead of selfishness?

4. Who are some of the people that you are remarkably close to emotionally? Do you feel or believe that most of them identify with or understand you? Do you believe that they care about your feelings and wellbeing? How do they show it? How does that make you feel? Do you intentionally try to help people feel that way? What are some of the things they say and do that lead you to believe they understand and care? How can you do that for others?
5. Have you ever imagined what it would be like to walk in another person's shoes or live with their situation? Do you easily identify with the pain of other people? Do you ever seek to alleviate the pain or make it easier for the person to bear it? Can you understand why persons such as spouses, children, friends, or church members might conclude from the actions and words of others that the other person either does not understand, or does not care? Are your relationships one sided as it relates to compassion? Are you more of a taker than a giver?
6. The following bullet points are suggestions as to how you might show compassion to another person in the congregation who might also be family or friend. My prayer is that the Holy Spirit will give you more.
 - Tell someone close to you that you care about their feelings and your impact upon their lives.
 - Honestly evaluate yourself and ask yourself what it might be like to be in a relationship with you. Are you a compassionate person?
 - Seek to relate to people based on what you know about them. Show them that you care and understand. Explore ways to express your compassion to them.
 - Consider how difficult it is to be selfish and show compassion. Compassion focuses on the other person.
 - Ask someone in your circle to tell you things you do and say that make them feel your compassion. Do not assume you know ask?
 - Learn to look for a person's legitimate needs and think of ways to appropriately meet them with compassion.
 - Commit to being a compassionate Christian and making your home and congregation more compassionate.
 - Constantly thank God for his compassion toward you.