

Compassion

Colossians 3:12-13, "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering: forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."

Who is caring and who is compassionate? Some people appear to have both of these traits; while others don't appear to understand what those words mean. Could it be the personality? Maybe it is how they were raised. Still as Christians, we are told to put on the heart of compassion. We are to love and forgive as Jesus loved and forgave us. Still, when something does not appear as needing compassion, we may wonder, 'Is there something wrong with me.' So how can we be caring for others? Maybe it is how we think. Thinking affects our emotions. Remember when you got saved...the old self died and the new self was born. God put his love in our hearts. How we use that love may be affected by how we think. If you are self-centered, you will not see the needs of others. Yet, when our minds are filled with God's love, we grow in His word and know how to care for others. This doesn't mean we give everything away. Maybe people who are hurting just need someone to listen to them. Give them a hug. When we let God's love flow through us, we can see how to care for those who may be hurting. We grow to follow God's lead. We have our eyes and hearts opened to see how to give comfort to those who may be hurting. Pain and suffering are part of being human. God will open our eyes when we open our hearts. Then we can see how to help others. So if God cares for us, He will show us how to care for others. Follow His lead and He will equip you with all you need to care for those who are hurting. Compassion is not hard but it is needed!

by Rev. Mike Holman